THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST MAY.

THE TIMES OF INDIA states that in April of next year the administration of the Bhownaggur State will probably be replaced in Native hands. The Political Agent has recommended that the reins of Government should then be handed over to the young Chief, and Sir Philip Wodehouse, in a minute written just before his departure, has expressed his concurrence with the Political Agent.

THE SAME PAPER mentions that a voluminous report has just been issued by the Government of Bengal treating of the two cyclones which visited the province during October last year. The report is compiled by Mr. J. Elliott, the Government Meteorological Reporter. Very elaborate charts and diagrams illustrative of the letter press, accompany the report.

A new instrument of destruction called "The Rocket Float," to be used in naval warfare and for coast defences, has been invented by a Rev. Mr. Rennis. It has been thus described: "An exact computation has lately been submitted to the British Admiralty by the inventor, showing that a rocket-float of 50 tons can be driven over the water at the rate of 275 miles an hour, and can be propelled to a distance of nearly four miles. The rocket-float is guided in any desired course, by a fixed rudder of thin metal, so that it can be projected against a ship or any other object on or near the sea with perfect precision. The cost of a 50-ton rocket-float will not exceed £1,200, and that of a ton float (the most serviceable size) will be about £258; yet a few of these inexpensive implements, well directed, would in a few hours destroy a fleet of iron armoured ships. No doubt this is a triumph of science,—but in the wrong direction. He who will succeed in saving life,—in finding a specific for cholera, or ice-bite or hydrophobia will achieve a greater triumph.

WE LEARN from the *Lucknow Witness* that the remainder of the Geneva Arbitration award, some 9½ million dollars, has been applied towards the decrease of the American War debt; a decrease of over 14 millions, including the above sum, took place in this debt during the single month of March.

THE *Lucknow Times* says: "A correspondent writing from Kishnagheri (Salem District) to the *Madras Mail*, states that the native females of the district are offering their children for sale at Rs. 4 each. If this be true, how truly horrible must the sufferings of the people be!—Ought not the Government to take some notice of this? Traffic in human flesh cannot be permitted by any civilized Government.

THE SAME PAPER mentions that the people of Ceylon have determined at a public meeting to raise a statue to Sir William Gregory and that over £500 was subscribed at the meeting.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Omnibus* states that the Editor of a German paper has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for calling the triple alliance "a superannuated phenomenon." So the Press does not appear to be a power in the free land of Germany as it is elsewhere. We cannot refrain giving here the sentiments of Lord Lytton, the father of our Viceroy, on the usefulness of the public press. "It is the newspaper," he said, "which gives to liberty its practical life, its constant observation, its perpetual vigilance, its unrelenting activity. It is the daily and sleepless watchman that reports to you every danger which menaces the institutions of your country, and its interests at home and abroad. It informs legislation of public opinion; and it informs the people of the acts of legislation thus keeping up that constant sympathy, that good understanding between people and legislators which conduces to the maintenance of order, and prevents the stern necessity for revolution."

THE SAME correspondent mentions that "Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to accept of a copy of "Kaiser-i-Hind" or "Fling out the banners to the wind"; the music by Miss Ethel Harraden, of London, and the poetry by Mr. Omesh Chunder Dutt, of Calcutta." We have seen a copy, and we must say that it has been splendidly got up.

THE OFFICIAL LIST of the Russian Navy returns its strength as amounting altogether to 223 vessels, carrying 561 guns, and manned by 25,943 men. But, says an authority, by far the greater portion of the iron-clads are small turret vessels and monitors, designed for coast defence, and hardly fit for a voyage to the Mediterranean.

MR. J. BROUGHTON, late Quinologist to the Madras Government whose mysterious disappearance since December 1874, could not be accounted for, it is now positively asserted, met with an accident and died. The fact of a large balance lying to his credit at an Agency House in Madras, and no claim made for it, satisfactorily proves that the owner has no longer the power to enforce his claim. The deceased, it is said, used to make regular remittances to his mother at home and these have ceased since his mysterious disappearance.

A HINDOO WOMAN and two girls were buried alive lately in a large tank under excavation on the premises of the Sassoon Silk Manufactory, Victoria Road, Bombay. While the deceased along with others were taking their meals at midday, a large quantity of earth suddenly fell in and buried the three unfortunate persons. When they were taken out an hour after the accident, they were all but lifeless.

ONE CAPTAIN BUTTER, an officer of the 9th regiment at Rawul Pindi, has, recently, wandered all over Central Asia in the disguise of a Chinese merchant, accompanied by a Chinaman as guide and companion. Although totally unacquainted with any Eastern language, he managed to make a survey of over 200 miles of the Attrek river without exciting any particular suspicion.

THE FOLLOWING statistics regarding the decline in the consumption of leeches in the hospitals of Paris will be read with curiosity: "From 1820 to 1824 the number of leeches used annually was 183,000; from 1824 to 1830, 508,000; from 1830 to 1842, 820,000; from 1842 to 1850, 430,000; from 1850 to 1855, 225,000; from 1855 to 1863, 138,000; from 1863 to 1870, 98,000; and from 1870 to 1875, 52,000. In 1835 the cost of leeches for the year to the Paris hospitals was 90,000f.; whereas at the present time it does not exceed 1,800f.

TUESDAY, 22ND MAY.

THE EDITOR of the *Moorshedabad Patrica* deeply regrets that he was misled by a correspondent, whom he had no reason to distrust, into giving publicity to the intelligence of the death of Babu Bhudeb Mookerjea, Inspector of Schools. He wishes the contradiction to be as widely known as possible.

IT IS said that four tons weight of Valentines have been returned to the Dead Letter Office in London from all parts of the kingdom. This immense mass of amatory rubbish is to be worked into pulp before being sold to the paper-makers!

THE TEMPERANCE movement is gradually gaining ground in India. We learn from the *Lucknow Witness* that a Meeting of Hindus, Mahomedans and Native Christians was held on the 3rd instant, in the native town or *chowk* of Monghyr, and it was acknowledged by every one present that the *grog-shops* were public nuisances and should be put down,—at least the opening of such shops without any reference to the population or extent of the town or district should be regarded as reckless proceeding. We agree in the main, but then a "grog shop" is one of those unavoidable evils,—which must b tolerated by Government, though it behoves individuals to keep clear of them.

THE INDIAN OMNIBUS says that "on the 22nd of March, the Emperor William attained his 80th year, and the event was celebrated throughout Germany, with great rejoicings. As a peculiarly Prussian trait, it may be recorded that among the gifts presented to His Majesty, there was an engraving by Prince Henry, and a book bound by Prince Waldemar, the two younger sons of the Crown Prince. Under the thrifty habits of the dynasty, each of its princes, it is well known, in order to become acquainted with the popular aspect of life, has to learn a craft. His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince is a compositor, and the German Emperor is a glazier. Thousands of bouquets were sent to the palace, and the innumerable presents included an Easter egg of hyacinths and corn flowers, reaching to the roof of the hall, a gigantic aquarium filled with transparent jelly, and containing eighty fishes ready for table, and a Brunswick sausage 6 feet high."

THE DELHI GAZETTE states that the new levies at Cabul, numbering sixty thousand men, are being regularly drilled and have acquired sufficient knowledge to enable them to join the ranks. English words of command, formerly in use in the Affghan army, are now disused, and a new drill book with Pushtoo words of command is being circulated among all the officers of the army.

THERE IS a brisk demand for rice, says the *Bengal Times*. If this should increase, or even if it should continue for a short time more, there will, we fear, be scarcity in Eastern Bengal.

MR. FENWICK of the Calcutta Municipality has arrived at Dacca to lay down the pipes of the water works. He will be paid at the rate of Rs. 1,500 per month, *plus* the usual Public Works Department travelling allowance to and from Dacca.

THERE IS no longer any doubt that there was something like a cyclone in the Bay lately. The French Mail Steamer *Meinam* which arrived in port to-day seems to have encountered the recent cyclone or at any rate some part of it, in the Bay of Bengal before reaching Madras. We have heard, as yet, of no disasters at sea; but further arrivals will settle the matter at rest.

THE EXTENT to which red tapism is carried on in this country creates unmitigated disgust. The following story appears in an up-country paper:

"In the old 2nd European Regiment of the Honourable East India Company's service, now the 104th Fusileers, was a smart and steady soldier by name of O'Neil. As a reward for his meritorious services he was eventually appointed sergeant-major of a native infantry regiment, a post that was more difficult to obtain in those days than is a Commission for a man in the ranks at the present time. He continued in this post for several years, and passed through the ordeal of the mutiny, earning honours and medals. In his old age, and with his small pension, he intended settling down at Roorkee with his family; and wishing to build himself some shelter, applied to the local authorities for some land. The said authorities very courteously allotted him a site, and gave him permission to build on it in anticipation of the Government sanction, the obtaining of which they considered to be but a mere matter of form, and of no difficulty. A little cottage was soon run up and the old warrior's little savings all laid out on it. But the Roorkee authorities had calculated without their host, for the authorities at head-quarters have refused to sanction the grant, and now the veteran has been ordered to pull down his house, and seek his resting place elsewhere."

WEDNESDAY, 23RD MAY.

THE TOTAL of the military forces of Turkey exclusive of the secondary army was officially estimated in 1876 at 481,056 peace footing, of which 148,680 were reserve, 75,000 auxiliaries, and 87,000 irregulars. The war-footing establishment was estimated at 1,70,376. The fleet of war of Turkey consisted at the end of the year 1875 of 20 Ironclad ships, and 70 other steamers. The Ironclads afloat comprised seven frigates eight corvettes and five gunboats, while the steam fleet was made up of five ships of the line, five frigates, fifteen corvettes fifty-five despatch and gunboats. The standing army of Servia as reorganised in 1867 consists of 4000 men actually under arms. But there is in existence a militia service the strengh of which is estimated at 70,000 men. Montinegro has no standing army except a life-guard of the Hospoder numbering a hundred men; but all the inhabitants not physically unfitted are trained as soldiers and liable to be called under arms. The number of men capable of bearing arms between the ages of twenty and fifty, is calculated at 21,850.

THE ABKARI department sometimes carry their zeal for the interest of the public service to an unreasonable length. The proprietors of a toy-shop in Park Street calling themselves Banerjee, Mitter and Co. were charged at the instance of Mr. Bradbury an Abkari assistant, with having sold a bottle of brandy without an excise license. From the evidence it appeared that there was no liquor of any kind in the shop for sale but that the informer who bought a doll from the shop left it in deposit with the shop-keeper and returned some minutes after with a bottle of brandy accompanied by some of his friends and charged the shop-keeper with having sold the liquor to him. As there was not a tittle of evi-

dence to substantiate the charge, the magistrate dismissed the case, observing that in no single instance so far as his memory went, had the authorities adopted the course now pursued, viz., that of making the informer the purchaser as was done in this instance.

WE ARE INFORMED that a meeting, at which the Nuddea zemindars mustered strong, was held at Krishnaghur to adopt the Memorial to the Viceroy against the Public Works Cess Bill. More than 700 persons have already put their signatures to the Memorial.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE believes that amongst the honors to be bestowed on the approaching anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, one will fall to the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, who will become Sir Robert Egerton, Knight of the Indian Empire.

WE LEARN from the *Pioneer* that "the Russian fleet or Squadron, which has sailed from New York under sealed orders, consists of one frigate, the *Svetlana*, and two corvettes, the *Ascolde* and *Bagatere*. All three are armoured. They are under the command of His Highness Rear Admiral Butakoff." —The number of war vessels of different nations, which are now ploughing the waters of the Mediterranean must indeed be imposing.

THE LONDON Correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette* believes that Dr. Russell will not go out for the *Times* to the seat of war in Europe, his Indian journey having sufficed him for a time.

WE HAVE received the first number of the Lectures on Electricity delivered by Dr. Mohendralal Sircar at the Science Association. The lecture, is earnest and eloquent and at the same time extremely interesting. The subject has been treated and brought forward in such a way as to be comprehended by and thereby made useful to every body. The following extract will show that, in Dr. Sircar's opinion the knowledge of electricity was known in this country long before the discoveries of Franklin :

> Eustathius speaks of a certain ancient philosopher who relates of himself that on one occasion when changing his dress sudden sparks were emitted from his person on drawing off his cloths, and that flames occasionally issued from him accompanied by a crackling noise.
>
> We read of our own ancient Rishis who could emit fire from their mouths. We need not be so unchariteble as to absolutely call in question the truth of the records in which these things are related. We may without violence to science believe that these might have been electrical phenomena. As we shall see in a future lecture, the electric fire can be drawn or emitted from the human body under certain conditions. For any thing we know the Rishis might have been acquainted with some of these conditions, or might have empirically known other conditions unknown to our science.
>
> Our temple architecture shows that the idea of averting lightning strokes by metallic rods implanted on the tops of temples and other places of worship was entertained and acted upon long anterior to the discoveries of Franklin. And the fact of our old ladies having been, in the habit of removing metallic things from the exposed parts of houses during thunder-storms long anterior to the introduction of western science, points to the probability that the same idea might have floated down traditionally from remote ages.

WE ARE glad to learn that our Foreign Secretary MR. C. U. Aitchison C. S. I. now on leave in England, has been honoured by the University of Edinburgh with the degree of L.L.D.

IT IS SAID that the best part of the relief fund of the Maharaja of Travancore is being laid out for the support and maintenance of poor Brahmin beggars while the famishing poor of other castes are utterly neglected. We are inclined to believe that the report is based on one, sided information.

VANITY FAIR speaks thus of England's Foreign Policy :

> "The war has come at last, and finds our statesmen, so-called, gaping and open-mouthed as ever, timorous and trembling as ever, and as ever incapable of conceiving, much less of carrying out, anything worthy the name of a Policy. They have tried they say, to prevent this war, have built upon Berlin Memorandums, Andrassy Notes, Atrocity Despatches, Conferences, Protocols, Declarations, and Recommendations all to that end, and if the end has failed their efforts show, they will say, that it was no fault of theirs. But what is the result of their efforts? Not that war has been avoided, or even postponed for a single day; but only that Russia the spoiler is enabled to represent herself as the hand of outraged Europe, the hand above all of outraged England put forth at length in the name of all the humanities, Christianities, ameliorations, guarantees, and what not, scattered up and down reams of European State papers. The assassin of Poland, the hangman of Circassia, the burglar and murderer of Khiva, the liar of London, is presented to the world as the one Power honest and courageous enough to make war for the attainment of objects declared by Europe and by England to be necessary of attainment—and this has resulted from writings and negotiations entered upon, we are told, with the one object of preventing that very war! was ever such a condemnation of the men who have bullied Turkey to give up her independence, abetted Russia in her Servian outrage, miscalled war, and connived at Russian intrigues all through, in order only to be presented to the world as Russia's accomplices and directors when at last open force is to be substituted for subtle conspiracy.

Rather too strong and yet not quite undeserved.

THURSDAY, 24TH MAY.

ACCORDING to the *Englishman* the natives of this country have forfeited their claims to employment in executive posts because some of their body at a meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta protested against the high-handed proceedings of the executive.

NOTWITHSTANDING the gloomy aspect of the political horizon the Stock market is again rising. Four per cent. Government paper is selling at from 97-4 to 97-8.

THE CYCLONE of which we made mention, it appears, visited Madras and did considerable mischief. The storm has damaged the harbour works. The rains which accompanied the storm poured down so heavily that tanks 18 to 20 feet deep which showed dry beds before the cyclone became full to the brim.

A EUROPEAN writer observes that while within three months three Doctors in Paris have fallen victims to their devotion to the public service, leaving behind wives and children unpitied and uncared for, and there is no talk of granting them a pension, the Government of the French republic is about to reward one Mr. Simonnel, a post office spy, with a life pension. Mr. Semonnel's services were so publicly recognised that his existence as a functionary was denied twenty times by the Post Master General under the late empire. His duty was clandestinely to open and close so many letters a day and to divulge any secrets they contained to the authorities.

THE DIRECTORS of the Bank of Bengal at their meeting yesterday reduced their rates of interest and discount, and the margin on loans on Government Security, two per cent. all round.

THE Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act which has been materially modified by the Secretary of State, is shortly to be amended in accordance with the instruction of the Home Government which has directed that the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in the old provinces of the Bombay Presidency shall be restored to them in revenue matters.

NOTWITHSTANDING the grilling heat of the weather *Charivari* fully maintains his character for excellence. The last issue contains a capital likeness of the Hon. R. A. Dalyell which forms the subject of the Album Portrait. The cartoon and other pictures are in keeping.

FRIDAY, 25TH MAY.

THERE were altogether 115 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 19th May current. From fever there were 74 deaths, from cholera 18, diarrhœa and dysentry 22, from pthisis 14, tetanus 12, and the rest from other causes.

THE HEALTH-OFFICER favors the public with the following statistics relating to the distribution of mortality in Calcutta according to sections or wards. Of the 18 sections there were in the Sampookur ward in the last week of May, 7 deaths, Koomertoole 15, Burtollah 13, Sookea's Street 9, Jorabagan 18, Jorasanko 19, Barabazar 7, Kolootollah 28, Moocheepara 18, Bowbazar 12, Puddopooker 13, Waterloo Street 2, Fenwickbazar 15, Taltolah 22, Collinga 5, and Bamoonbustee 1. The Park Street and Hastings wards were wholly exempt from mortality.

HIS HIGHNESS the Prince of Wales while in Paris presented Marshal Macmahon, President of the French Republic with a copy of Dr. Russel's work on his Royal Highness's "Tour in India," with his autograph "To His Excellency Marshal Macmahon, President of the French Republic, from Albert, Prince of Wales."

THE NAVAL station in Europe of the United States Government has been decided to be transferred from Nice to Lisbon which is also to be the head quarters station of the channel squadron of the British Navy.

THE RANGOON PAPER informs us that the King of Burma has an embargo on the exportation of grain from his territories. A Burman shipper of 121 bags was put in the stocks for trying to ship his produce.

A FOREST office is in contemplation to be established in the town of Pegu chiefly for the conservation of the bamboo forests for the manufacture of papers.

THE FOLLOWING sketch of the Parsi character occurs in a Bombay Journal :

> "We come at last to the Parsis, a race of boasters by descent. They talk of the purity of their religion, of their grand descent from kings and heroes, their pure blood, and not the less pure morals. This may have been true of them at a privious time. The Parsis of this generation can talk very well. Their code of matrimonial law is a failure. The Divorce Court is now seldom closed. The number of maniacs and suicides is on the increase. A Parsi woman has narrowly escaped the halter. Another has published her shame to the world and that of her seducer. The Parsi priest is a notorious imbecile. He scarcely understands the prayers he mutters while he can easily make a match and break one too, than shrive a soul or prepare it for another world. The Parsi youth of the day is a well-known coxcoms and as to make shifts to live from hand to mouth for he knows nothing, not even to live. The Parsi girl of the day has an Alexandra Institution wherein to learn bad manners, indifferent music, abominable painting, and a good share of irreligiousness. What wonder if she makes a bad wife?"

SATURDAY, 26TH MAY.

THE FRIENDS and admirers of Lord Napier of Magdala, our late Commander-in-chief, will we make no doubt, be glad to learn that it is expected that his Excellency will have received the crowning military distinction of the Field Marshal's Baton on the Queen's birth day.

THE APPOINTMENT of Mr. Dasabhoy Framji to the Chairmanship of the Justices of the Peace of Bombay has given rise to considerable heart burning amongst Europeans, who are heard to say that the rights of Englishmen are taken away one by one until they have come to regard themselves as the most helpless class in the community. But the greed of this most helpless class is so insatiable that it is difficult to set any limit to it. They enjoy all the loaves and fishes available in the country and still they hanker for the stray crumbs which chance now and then to be within the reach of the hungry multitude.

WE HEAR that a great sensation trial is going on in Rajshahye. The parties concerned are of the highest respectability.—A charge of theft has, it is said, been brought by a lady against her brother-in-law, the amount being estimated at near a lac of rupees. We wait for further information, and shall be glad to learn that the case has terminated without injury to the honor of either party.

THE CHARIVARI with its usual regularity has come to hand, and the heat-stricken residents of Calcutta have to thank it for the temporary relief they experience from a perusal of its pages. The present number is up to the mark. We cannot refrain giving the following morceau from it :

> *Pellew (cid) Justice.*—Howrah rejoices (?) in a Magistrate, a certain Mr. Pellew, who seems to indulge in rather peculiar manifestations of his magisterial power. The other day he fined a barrister some hundreds of rupees for attempting to do his duty to his client and, on another occasion, sentenced a young lady, not seventeen, to two months' rigorous imprisonment on a charge, certainly not too clearly proved, of affixing a defaced half anna stamp to a letter, and—well nothing else—except that Mr. Pellew is *still* magistrate of Howrah, where the justice of the bench, if not clear, is yet Pellewcid enough in all conscience.

THE FOLLOWING is from the pen of the Poet Laureate and will be read with interest by our readers. It is not in his best style though :

MONTENEGRO.

They rose to where their sorran eagle sails,
They kept their faith, their freedom, on the height,
Chaste, frugal, savage, armed by day and night
Against the Turk; whose inroad nowhere scales
Their headlong passes, but his footstep fails,
And red with blood, the Crescent reels from fight
Before their dauntless hundreds in prone flight
By thousands down the crags and thro' the vales!
Oh smallest among peoples! rough rock-throne
Of Freedom! warriors beating back the swarm
Of Turkish Islam for five hundred years,
Great Tsernogora! never since thine own
Black ridges drew the cloud and brake the storm
Has breathed a race of mightier mountaineers!

THE LEADER of this morning affords so charming a specimen of editorial amenity and gentlemanliness that we cannot resist the temptation of quoting it for the delectation of our readers. Adverting to the last meeting of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation he says, "He," (MR. Metcalfe) has to manage a bear garden, in which those animals alternate with apes, asses, and parrots. And yet he can sit there listening to their howls, growls, grunts, brayings, and chatterings without ever seeming to lose his temper. The Hon'ble Kristo Dass Pal, insufferable as he is, and worse as he is likely to become under the idiotic flattery of Lord Lytton and Mr. Eden, is not a bit worse than the Rev. Dr. Banerjea, who ends a stupid, turgid speech by crying out, "Down with the Health-Officer!" The danger is lest Dr. Payne should take these wretched creatures at their word, and resign an office in which he is rendering such inestimable service to the city. No doubt, we should then hear of "Up with a Banerjee!" if there be any assistant surgeon, apothecary, or quack of that name to be provided for. The thing is worse than a farce. The reverend gentleman's conversations with zenana ladies appear to turn not so much upon the moral and educational progress they are effecting, as upon the state of the privies in the houses which they visit, and their testimony on such matters he regards as invaluable." Who can after this deny that the Anglo-Indian Press of India still retains its claim to the character given to it by Sir Charles Napier—"the rascally press of India."

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :— 1. Grammar of the Rong (Lepcha) language as it exists in the Darjiling and Sikim hills, by Colonel G. B. Mainwairing, B. C. S. 2. Annual Administration Report of the Munipore Agency for the year 1875-76. 3. Annual Report on the Administration of the Land Revenue in Assam 1875-76. 4. Records

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of Geological Surveying of India. Vol. X. Part 2. 1877. 5. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal Nos. III, IV, March and April, 1877. 6. England and India: A lecture delivered at the first Anniversary meeting of the Bhowanipore Students Association, by Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee. 7. Bungodursun or a monthly Journal and Review in Bengali Vol. V. No II, for Joysta 1284 B.E. 8. An illustrated Catalogue of Messrs Deschamps &c Co. furnitures, carriages, harness, and billiards makers. 9. The Indian Jurist Vol. I Part II.

THE SAME PAPER states that famine prevails to an alarming extent in Corea. Thousands of the natives, the Siam paper says, have died of absolute starvation, and the daily death-rate is increasing. In such a crisis it is but natural to suppose any Government would put forth its whole strength in order to arrest the ravages of the plague. Not so, however, with that of Corea. Rather than violate its protection law, the importation of food has been strictly prohibited, and death continues to reap a rich harvest. We did not know that the Corean Government is so far behind that of China.

THE TEMPERATURE at mid-day on the 25th Instant within the Campbell Hospital at Sealdah was 104 degrees. No wonder that all medical skill should be baffled by such un-hygienic condition of the Hospital building, which during the hot weather is no better than a furnace, and in the cold season as bad as the open field. During the rains the roof resembles a vast sieve. The comfort of the patients may therefore well be conceived. When will this state of things be remedied?

A SUM of £10,000, part of the indemnity recovered from the Chinese Government, has been paid to the representatives of the late Mr. Margary.

AN application for a loan of fourteen lakhs of rupees has been made to the Government of India for the construction of the works by which it is proposed to supply Karachi with water from the Mullyar River, a distance of eighteen miles. The present water supply is complained of as both deficient in quantity and very bad in quality.

REFERRING to the present style of dressing, the Americans remark that a young lady in Boston never wore any thing else but low neck and short sleeves. The ancients believed that modesty and not rouge was the best ornament for women. But the American wardrobe and Madam Rachel have totally falsified the old belief. Hurrah for low necks and short sleeves! We wonder when Kamini will take to them and nothing else.

THE METAL production of the Western States o-America is given by the *Sutro Independent* as follows:—"Nevada, the Silver State, is pouring out daily 125,000 dols. in silver, 75,000 dols. in gold, 8,000 dols. in lead, and 2,000 dols. in other metals, making an yield of 210,000 dols. daily, or 63,000,000 dols. per annum. California is producting daily about 40,000 dols. in gold, 10,000 dols. in silver, 6 000 dols. in quicksilver, 5,000 dols. in lead and copper, 7,700 dols. in coal, and 5,000 dols. in iron, antimony, zinc, and othe minerals; its total yield is therefore 73,000 dols, corresponding to an yearly product from its mines of 23,50,000 dols. Colorado is producing 15,000 dols in silver every twenty-four hours, 10,000 dols. in gold, and 1,000 dols. in other minerals; 26,000 dols. daily, equal to 7,000,000 dols. yearly. Utah is credited with a daily output of 12,000 dols. in silver, 9,000 dols. in lead, and 2,000 dols. in other minerals; 23,000 dols. per day, or 6,90,000 dols. per annum. Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Arizona, and New Mexico together are turning out each day 20,000 dols. in gold, 17,000 dols. in silver, 1,500 dols. in base metal, giving a total of 38,500 dols. each day, or 11,550,000 dols. annually.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the weeks:

London May 18th.—The latest advices state that 52,000 Russian troops are marching towards Simnitza, where, it is believed, they will attempt the passage of the Danube.

Paris May 17.—After a violent speech by M. Gambetta, the Chamber of Deputies adopted by 355 against 154 votes a resolution brought forward by him that the Chamber could only place confidence in a Cabinet possessing freedom of action and governing on Republican principles. It is expected that the Chamber will be dissolved. A Right Central Ministry has been formed as follows:—Duc de Broglie as President of the Council of Ministry and Minister of Justice; Fort in Minister of the Interior; Caillaux, of Finance; The Comte de Paris, of Public Works; Meaux, of Agriculture and Commerce; and Brunet, of Public Instruction and Public Worship. The Duc Osecazes and General Berthaut, as Foreign and War Minister respectively, retain office.

London May 18.—Russian official despatches state that the Russian troops have captured two Turkish outworks at Ardahan and made a reconnoisance of Kars, the garrison of which place made a sortie, when a seriously contested engagement ensued, during which both sides lost many men in killed and wounded. The Turkish authorities are supplying arms to Circassia.

The Kashgar Envoy has arrived in London.

Parliament will be closed during the Whitsuntide holidays, until the 31st instant.

London May 20.—The Russian official despatches state that the Russian troops have captured Ardahan with sixty guns and stores. The Russian loss was 235 men. The Czar goes next week to Ployesti. The latest advices state that strong bodies of Russian troops are marching towards Oltenitza.

Constantinople May 19.—Three Turkish ironclads with reinforcements have left here for Batoum.

Paris, May 19.—A calmer feeling prevails here. Marshal Macmahon has sent a message to the Chamber adjourning it for a month, and stating that as to previous ministries have failed to uphold the conservative principle he cannot associate with the Radical party, and is therefore resolved to maintain the *status quo* until 1880. There was a tumultuous sitting of both the Houses to-day before the adjournment took place, and the Ministers are preventing discussion. A manifesto has been issued by the republican party urging the nation to firmly uphold the republic.

London May 22nd.—There is no news from the seat of war in European or Asiatic Turkey.

22nd.—The British Ironclad Squadron has gone to the Piraeus.

Paris May 22nd.—A wholesale change has been introduced into the French Prefectoral Administration.

Constantinople May 21st.—The Sheik Ul Islam has proclaimed a holy war against Russia.

22nd.—A strong Turkish Expedition has gone to Soukoum Kaleh to aid the Circassian insurgents.

London, May 26.—The latest advices from the seat of war in Asia Minor state that the Russian troops are making rapid marches towards Erzeroum, and that the Vanguard has already reached Olti, whilst the left wing is marching towards Diarbekir, and the centre has commenced bombarding the outworks of Kars. The position of the Turks in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey is considered critical.

Erratum.—Correction in telegram dated Constantinople, May 24.—Please read "Russian troops in Roumania," and not "troops of Roumania," as given.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1877.

"THE ENGLISHMAN" TO THE RESCUE!

STRIKE, like scarlatina, is a peculiarly infectious complaint, and, if we may believe a writer in the *Englishman* who has been lately fulminating verbose and grandiloquent edicts from Capriæ, the outbreak of it which has been annoying the good people of Calcutta for the last seven weeks, is spreading from the melters to the Municipal Office. To judge from the tone of the edicts the *amour propre* of a high officer of the Municipality has been seriously hurt by the "impertinence and conceit" of certain native Commissioners, and apprehensions are entertained of his throwing up his office in disgust. Some three months ago, when some native Commissioners questioned at a meeting of the Municipality the accuracy of some of his scientific statements, a medical gentleman of high standing sided with the same "impertinent" natives, and the task of off-hand defending the scientific house of cards of the learned gentleman was so troublesome that he immediately after resigned his post as a Commissioner. The loss was however not at all felt. It is so much more convenient to elaborate a defence in one's study than to be always ready on the spur of the moment, that the resignation was a positive advantage gained. The unpaid duty of a Commissioner takes one away from his profession, from the pleasant task of writing spicy leaders against ones neighbours and defending rotten schemes, but brings no grist to the mill. The Municipality also lost nothing by the resignation. The services of the learned gentleman, his advice and his scientific co-operation were as available to the Municipality after his resignation as they were before, but we shudder at the idea of his giving up his office as an adviser! Oh! how disasterous that would be! "The world might get on without the hills," says Dickens, "but it must all break up" if Sir Leicester Deadlock ceases to countenance it. There is however a ray of hope for us. "Loyalty and public spirit," says the writer in the *Englishman*, "are potent influences with the higher order of Englishman," and Rs. 12,000 a year is an amulet which, we opine, would not be without its charm. The danger, therefore, need not be apprehended as too proximate. At the same time we must admit that liberty and free discussion are all very well in the mild climate of Europe, but contradiction on the part of natives to scientific theories of European scholars is anything but tolerable, and we cannot but condemn the conduct of those who have given cause of offence in such a quarter. It might be that the late Chairman of the Municipality thought the duty of a Health-Officer to be mainly consultative. He might have said on more than one occasion.

"The Justices remembered that when Dr. Tonnerre took leave and went to Simla for six or eight months, it was proposed and carried, that the duties of his office could be carried on much as the committee now proposed, that is to say that the executive establishment should be under the Engineer, and that Dr. Macrae should only act in a consultative capacity, advising the Chairman on all matters connected with, and supervising, the health of the city. The time during which Dr. Macrae held his appointment, the work went on very satisfactoriiy, and he (Mr. Hogg) did not see under the arrangements proposed, any different results would have been attained."

But surely such an argument should not have been resorted to by the "impertinence and conceit" of native Commissioners to baulk so desirable a scheme as that of getting up an Assistant Health-officership on a comfortable salary, as was suggested. Nay, a man was already employed with the promise of a large salary, without waiting for official sanction, and the churls of the Corporation were stupid or wicked enough to withhold that sanction and send the man adrift. Could any thing be more offensive to the feeling of a man in power? Doubtless the alleged object for which the assistant was required was the preparation of statistical tables, and it may be true that a native on a moderate salary could do the work quite as well, as a European on much higher remuneration, and the saving of Municipal funds might be a question of moment, but we are bound to admit that no such consideration should have been allowed to stand in the way of helping a protege. Then, it is said, that a sum of Rs. 84,000 in its passage annually from the melters of Calcutta to the Municipal Office percolate so freely that only Rs. 28,000 reach their destination. Niggardly natives might think it a matter of worth to enquire how and where the percolation takes place, but the enquiry is a troublesome one and a paltry sum of Rs. 56,000 a year should not be allowed to become a source of trouble or annoyance to a high officer. It may be that no actual offence has been yet given by the Municipal Commissioners to any officer of the Municipality, and the writer in the *Englishman* mourns that "these products of her intellectual training (the native Commissioners) and our political trifling are astute enough to use no language which a Chairman might reprove." But, an impertinence is an impertinence, whether guarded or otherwise. The lamb in the fable was certainly impertinent when it contradicted the wolf and said it had fouled the water. Then there is the "contradiction" and "brow-beating, the like of which," the writer thinks, "is unheard of elsewhere outside the walls of a Police Court." We have a faint recollection that in the olden days of the Justices, the independent European Justices headed by John Blessington Roberts did a great deal more in that line than what the most "conceited" native could ever think of; the war of words was then incessant and acrimonious, and the feeling of the heaven-borns was exasperated by the opposition, that the said heaven-borns at last encompassed the ruin of a sturdy, honest Englishman and the down-fall of the Justices' Corporation, but it was done by Europeans and the *Englishman* came out after every meeting with a trenchant leader to support those who played the game of "contradiction."

It would be all nonsense that such a course of conduct, or anything approaching it, could be tolerated in a native. Then, much has been made of the anxiety displayed by the native Commissioners to cut down expenditure, and there may be something in it. The native Commissioners, however, do not remember that they have ever refused their support to any project of legitimate expense. It would take more time and space, than we care to devote to it, to examine all the several questions of expenditure that have come up during the last nine months; but, we cannot help observing that the most important of them, the Budget, when it came up before the Commissioners for adoption, had the support of all the European official Commissioners including the Hon'ble Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Bruce Lane, Mr. Grimley, Mr. Macrae, Mr. Duff Bruce, Dr. D. B. Smith and others, who could scarcely have been actuated by a spirit of contradiction against

the Chairman. And the solitary exception was a Fribble. The native Commissioners could also show that, in all important questions they had the support of a large majority of their official European colleagues; but the fact cannot be gainsaid that the European Commissioners cannot command a majority amongst themselves, and there it is where the shoe pinches. The Europeans will not attend the meetings at which they have not a majority, and no scheme of Municipal Government can, in their estimation, be complete in which the number of the natives is not reduced to a minimum. The Ducks may do otherwise. They may sit under the presidency of a Parsi, but the idea is intolerable in the healthier and freer atmosphere of Calcutta.

The writer in the *Englishman* strengthens his position by adverting to the hideous enormity of some native commissioners having produced "written resolutions from their pockets." We are free to confess that this is an unpardonable sin, and for it there is no redemption. They might have, like their betters, in the supreme and local Legislative councils, pulled out written speeches and read them. Nine out of every ten legislators do so, and they would have been perfectly justified if they had followed the good example. But in the name of common sense, could any thing be more atrocious than resolutions written before a meeting takes place! No, the offence is as bad as blasphemy, and after it the writer in the *Enylishman* is perfectly justified in wishing for a change in the construction of the Municipal constitution. A mischievous wag at our elbow asks us to enquire if any such was ever adopted, and reminds us that Sir Stuart Hogg used frequently to pull out Resolutions from his pocket, written several days before a Meeting, but he has no idea of the grand neutrality of common things, and who could in his senses tolerate that in a native, which obtained in the case of a distinguished European officer. No, the man who would entrust such a power to a native is a traitor to the interests of the community, even a great deal more than he who would like to check the percolation of 56,000 Rs. a year; and we are glad to infer from the lucubrations of the writer in the *Englishman* that some one has the ear of the Government, and instil therein much that is not good for his neighbours, he will ere long bring about a change in the present constitution of the Municipality. Our only fear is that Mr. Eden is too shrewd not easily to perceive interested motives. In the confessions of Mr. Stocqueler, a former editor of the *Engtishman*, we find that, for a consideration of £500, he made a tour of all the leading manufacturing towns of England, got up speeches, and to such an extent wrote anonymous articles to prove that the poor natives of India were dying by millions of cholera, because the East India Company held the monopoly of the salt trade and sold salt at the exhorbitant price of Rs. 2-8 a maund that in six months he sealed the doom of Indian salt and established a Cheshire trade worth six crores a year at an average cost to the Bengal peasant of Rs. 4-8 for every maund of salt he consumed. Cholera has however been since driven out of the country. There may be others who are not altogether ignorant of this plan of giving expression to public opinion and bringing on desirable changes. But is Mr. Eden, unaware of it? We might also remind the writer in the *Englishman*:

> Vertentem sese frustra sectabere cantbum,
> Cum rota posterior curras, et in axe secundo.

PROPERTY IN LAND IN BENGAL.

II.

LAST week we gave the opinions of the highest native revenue officers of the day on the question of the proprietory right of the Zemindars. In this article we purpose to give a few more extracts. Mr. Berner says: That the subject is embarrassed, as well as delicate, must be acknowledged. Some are inclined to consider them as officers, others, as farmers of the revenue. But this seems to me eluding the difficulty, rather than solving it. For if the zemindary be even an office, and such office give possession of land, which has by claim or custom descended from father to son, or to collaterals, with other circumstances incident to property, such as mortgage, alienation, bequest or adoption; it is in reality a landed inheritance. Mr Rouse then goes on:

"No material light arises from an etymological inquiry. I proceed therefore to consider the origin and nature of the possession itself. At present every Zemindar, whatever be the mode of acquiring his land, holds it under a Sunnud, or patent from the government, in the Persian language, minutely describing the lands comprised within his zemindary which distribution is never changed, unless in cases of partition amongst heirs, or purchase and sale although the Sunnud ought to be renewed upon every succession or alienation. I confess I have never been able to fix the period, when zemindary Sunnuds were first issued by the Mogul government in their present tenor. The Bengal revenue committee in 1786 have entered on their consultations, the form only of one supposed to be granted in the reign of Akber, which began in 1555, and ended in 1605. But there are no names to authenticate its originality: and there is reason to imagine, that those gentlemen were misled as to the authority of the instrument in question.

I rather incline to think, that they have not been in use much above the hundered years: and perhaps, Mr. Grant has justly ascribed their origin to the reign or Aurungzebe. This emperor may very probably have judged it expedient, after the suppression of the civil war in Bengal by the final defeat of his brother Sultan Shujah in 1660, and the subjection of the Deccan in 1687; to issue these patents of investiture for the landholders, who had been faithful to his interest. It may be presumed, that in general the former occupants were confirmed in their possession upon a settled tribute; because we do not find, although Aurungzebe was an enthusiast for his own religion, that he made any disposition of the conquered lands amongst his own followers and adherents; but gave them altogether to the native Hindoos. For Mr. J. Sullivan says, in his judicious "Observations upon the Sircar of Masulipatam," printed in the year 1780, that "at his demise 1707, the whole country was possessed" by the ancestors of the present Zemindars:" and that may be considered, as the epoch, when the power and dominion of the Mogul emperor were at their highest pitch or glory.

However, although these Sunnuds may not have been granted to landholders in the reign of Akber; and which I am the more disposed to believe, because I see no mention in the Ayin Akbery, or Institutes of Akber, of judicial functions being vested, as they have since been, in any other than the regular officers of Mahomedan jurisprudence: yet there is no reason to infer, that Zemindars did not then exist. They are by no means overlooked in that most valuable repository of Indian regulation and knowledge; a translation of which has been given to the world by Mr. Gladwin. For not only are they mentioned in the historical abstract of various provinces, as entertaining considerable armies, with great extent of country, and a large revenue: but moreover in my manuscript copy of that work, which is a very fine one, I observe in the table of the measurement, revenue, forts, and military establishment of every subah or province, there is a distinct column for the title *Zemindars*; describing the religion and sect of those persons in every subdivision of the country. This is evidence irrefragable, that the term of *Zemindar* was in use at the time, when that able conqueror made an assessment for his extensive empire, and fixed the regulations for its future government. And what could be meant by *Zemindars*, but the occupants and proprietors of the land, in their several ranks, as we have seen them in the present period?"

It is argued by some that the grant of Sunnud to the Zemindar on each succession did not recognize in him absolute property. The Sunnud resembled more the patent of nobility and the peshkush the succession tax. Mr. Rouse says:

"It seems to me to result indisputably from the deductions of history contained in the foregoing pages, that zemindars, as persons possessing land either in their own right, or by successive renovation of grant, are of considerable, perhaps of high antiquity, but that the present Sunnud, upon which only their title to this land has generally been supposed to rest, is of comparatively modern institution. So that whether the Sunnud now in use commenced under the reign of Akber, or that of Aurungzebe; I trust I shall not be thought presumptuous in contending, that the zemindary property existed independant of the Sunnud, and was not, at least not within any ascertainable period, created by it. However, although it did not create, the Sunnud may have confirmed the property. Judicial functions may have been superadded by it. After a recent conquest, it might be prudent for the conqueror, and safe for the proprietor to receive a charter of confirmation. Or the lands of persons who had been engaged in rebellion, having been sequestered and seized by the rightful, or what is in effect the same thing, the successful party; which is the practice of all nations under every description, with more or less of ceremonial process: they might be added to the districts of some faithful adherent, and a charter would then become necessary to establish the new proprietor upon the exclusion of the former. Or it might be expedient in the case of acquisition by purchase, to confirm in like manner the possession of the purchaser.

In stating these cases hypothetically, I conceive, that I really describe by analogy, the occurrences of our own country, at those unhappy periods of our history, when the contentions of the royal houses produced continual revolutions in the kingdom; and of all other nations under similar circumstances. Large tracts of land in England and Wales were so conveyed by charter from the successful competitor: and the titles of the present owners are delaced from them. The description will equally apply, with a change of terms only, to explain the origin, enlargement and consolidation of several of the great zemindaries of Bengal."

By way of illustration Mr. Rouse gives the history of the form of great families of Bengal, which he justly contends she ws that the "principle of hereditary descent in the zemindars has been admitted by all the ruling princes in Bengal." Although the account is long, we think it will interest the reader:

Account of the origin and progressive increase of the four great zemindaries, taken from the proceedings of the Bengal Revenue Committee in 1786.

Account of the zemindary of Burdwan, &c,

A man named Aboo, of the Kettre cast, was in the service of the Foujedar of Burdwan, who in 1086, Bengal style, in consideration of his having faithfully discharged the duties of his office, gave him the Chowdhary of Gowannee, a town in Burdwan, and Purgunnah Bazar Ibrahimpore, and Bekanee Bazar.—He was succeeded in the possession of these by his son Baboo, who, by the dismission of Ram Roy, obtained Purgunnah Burdwan, &c.—4 Mehals.—After his death, the zemindary came to Gunnisham Doss, who was succeeded by his son Kishenram. In the time of Nawaub Hiffayaut Khan the Zemindary of Azmutshahy &c. 3 or 4 Purgunnahs were put under the security of Kishenram, who was killed in 1102 Bengal style in the troubles of Sutah Sing. When these disturbances were quieted, Juggatsram, the son of Kishenram was put in possession of his deceased father's zemindary, by the Shahazade Mahomed Azeem, and retained it till the end of 1107 Bengal style, having obtained in addition to it the zemindary of Purgunnah Punkelty, &c. 5 Mehals. He was assassinated in the end of 1108.

Juggatram left two sons, Keretchund and Metter Seine, the former of which being the elder, succeeded to the zemindary. In 1110 Nornarrain and Sheo Chund, Zemindars of Monohurshahy and Bursut, not paying the Balances they owed to government, and at the same time refusing obedience to the Foujedar of Houghley, were dispossessed of their respective Zemindaries, which were made over to Keretchund. About the same period the Zemindar of Chitterah Burdah becoming security, the Nawaub Kartullub Khan sent Lahoree Mull the Dewan of the Souhah, together with his own Peishker and Durrupnarrain Roy, Canongoe of Bengal, with a force to reduce him to obedience, but he fled the country, and his Zemindary was given to Keretchund. Some time afterwards, Rambudder, &c. Chowdries of Indrahmund, Juggernaut Persaud, and Sukdes, &c. Chowdries of Purgunnah Mundalghaut, having by their notorious bad conduct highly displeased the Nawaub Jaffer Khan, they were dispossessed and their Zemindarries given to Keretchand, who took them in the name of his son Chitter Sing Keretchund died in Augun 1146 Bengal style, and was succeeded in all his possessions by his son Chitter Seine, to whom also fell the Purgunnah Arse, on the decease of Govind Doss Chowdry. On Chitter Seine's death, his cousin Tellook Chund (son of his father's brother) succeeded to the Zemindary in 1151.—Tellook Chand died in Seyte 1177, and was succeeded by his son the present Rajah Teejchund.

Account of the Zemindary of Rajeshahy; &c.

A Brahmin named Comdeo lived in Monza Mattoor, in Lushkerpoor, and had three sons—viz. Ramjewan, Ragoonundun, and Bishenram. Ragoonundun was employed as Vackeel of the Zemindar of Lushkerpore at Dacca, the then seat of Government. He was afterwards employed in the same capacity by Durrupnarrain, the Canongoe of Bengal, and soon after advanced to the office of Naib Canongoe.

In 1113 on the defalcation of Bhugwatty and Gunnes Narrain, Chowdries of Purgunnah Burgantchy, &c. in their payments of revenue, Rogoonundun got their Zemindary, in the name of his elder brother Ramjewan. He remained in the office of Canongoe's Peishker from 1114 to the end of 1115 Bengal style. The year following, the Nawaub Kartullab Khan, was made Dewan of the Soubah of Bengal and Orissa, with the title of Moorshed Koody Khan and appointed Ragoonundun his own Peishkar. In 1117 Bengal style, on the death of Ramkisben, the Zemindar of Bettorea, &c. Ragoonundun got the management of the Zemindary, which remained in the name of Rannee Sebanee, the Zemindar's widow; but she dying soon after without heirs. Ragoonundun obtained the Zemindary in the name of his brother Ramjewan In 1120, Cedinarrain, the Zemindar of Rajeshahy, having revolted in consequence of some discontents, collected his adherents, and retired to the mountain of Sultanaba. Ragoonundun was sent with a force against him, seized and confined him in prison, for which service he was rewarded with the Zemindary of Rajeshahy, which he took in 1121 in the name of his brother Ramjewan. Some time afterwards Seetaram, the Zemindar of Nuddea, was apprehended, and confined for the murder of the Foujedar Abootoorab, but dying in confinement, his Zemindary, together with that of Ibrahimpore, &c. belonging to Ragonaut, was given to Ramjewan. Rogoonundun died in 1131, and his infant son, Bowanny Persaud, soon afterwards. The management of the Zemindary then devolved to Calca Persaud, the son of Ramjewan, and Deby Persaud, the son of Bishenram, at which time the Afgans Kishwer Khan, Shum Sheer Khan, Enayut Khan, &c. Zemindar of Havillee Mahmoodabad and Shahojeal Toonjee Serooppour, &c. and Isfinder Beg Zemindar of Purgunnah Pokoreah, being thrown into confinement for murder, their zemindarries were given to Rawjewan. Afterwards Enayut Ullah, Zemindar of Jelalpore, &c. falling in arrears, sold Havillee Futtehabad, &c. to Ramjewan, to make good his revennes; Ramjewan, on his son Callepersaud's dying without issue in 1131, wanted to give 10 Annas of his Zemindary to his great grandson Ramkaunt, and 6 Annas to Deby Persaud, his brother Kishenram's son; but Deby Persaud not consenting to this, the whole was given to Ramkaunt. Ramjewan died leaving the temporary charge of the Zemindary in the hands of Dharam his Khidmutgar. In 1146 the Zemindary of Ootter Serroopore and Patlada, &c. (after the death of Ragonaut the deceased Zemindar's widow) was taken by Ramkaunt. However; as he could not realize the balances of government, the Zemindarries above mentioned were, through the means of Mustapha Khan, given to Deby Persaud; he held them some time they afterwards came into the possession of Ramkaunt, as formerly. Ramkaunt died without male issue in 1153 and his Zemindary came into the possession of his widow, the Present Rannee Bowannee.—Some time after, she gave the Zemindary to Ragonaut, her daughter's husband, who in 1158 died. She then resumed the management of her Zemindary. In 1165 Nundcomar Roy got her displaced, and the Zemindary given to Gourry Persaud, son of Deby Persaud, who held it for a few months, and then it was again given to the Rannee, who now remains in possession.

Account of the Zemindary of Purgunnah Ocra.

&c.

Bhowsund, a Bramin, was a Mohurir in the Houghly Canongoe Dufter, and got himself appointed to the Zemindary of Purgunnah Bugwan, Nuddea, &c. 14 Mehals, in the room of Hurryhoo and Cossinaut Chowdry. He died, and was succeeded by his son Gopal Rby; who was succeeded by his son Rogooram. Rogooram got possession of the

Zemindarries of Ocra and Santipore, on failure of the zemindars Mooddoshoodun and Serekishen, in payment of their revenues. He died, and was succeeded by his son Rooddur Roy, who had two sons, viz. Ramchund and Ramjewan. On his death, the zemindary descended to Ramchund the elder. Ramchund however revolting against the government was put to death for his ill behavior, and the younger brother Ramjewan got possession of the zemindary. He had two sons by different women by the first Rogooram, by the second Ram Gopaul. Ramjewan died in 1126 and was succeeded by his eldest son Rogooram. This man got several Mehals into his possession: some by purchase, and others by way of Gutchannee, between the year 1127 and 1134.

Account of the Zemindary of Havilee Peojora.

Hare Ram and Hurnarrain were two brothers; Seremunt Chowdry of the Purgunnah, dying without issue or heir, the Zemindary was given to Har Ram; who was his daughter's son. Hurram had two sons, Sookdeo and Beshenath the eldest of whom succeeded to the zemindary, in their father's death. Sookdeo had three sons, Ramdeo, Joydeo and Prawunaut. Ramdeo, the eldest, succeeded his father in the Zemindary, and died some time after without issue; upon which the second, Joydeo, got possession. He too died in a few years without issue; the Zemindary then fell to Prawunaut; who having no issue of his own, adopted one of his relations, named Ramnaut. He held it near 40 years, and died in 1131 Bengal style, when he was succeeded by his adopted son Ramnaut abovementioned.

Ramnaut had 4 sons; Kishennaut, Byjenaut, Cantoonaut and Roopnaut; the eldest, Kishennaut, died in his father's life-time, without issue. Ramnaut died in 1167 and was succeeded by the eldest surviving son Byjenaut. Soon after Roopnaut the youngest died without issue. In the troubles of Cossim Ally Khan, Byjenaut was confined with several other Mutsuddies and Farmers, &c. of rank in the Fort of Monghy. Cantoonaut his half brother, having, through Ramnaut Bhudder, Sezawul of the Purgunnah, agreed to acknowledge the Nawaub above-mentioned, presented his Nuzerana, and received a Perwannah for the possession of the Zemindary; but in Cossim Ally Khan's flight, and the succession of Jaffer Alli Khan, Byjenaut was released, and reinstated in his Zemindary. He died in 1186 leaving Radanaut, an adopted son, who is the present Zemindar.

(Signed) G. DANDRIDGE.
Persian and Bengal Translator.

Now, if the proprietory right of the zemindar had not been hereditary, how could these great familes have inherited their extensive estates for so many generations without let or hinderance? We will recur to the subject in our next.

IRRIGATION AND FEVER.

DR. MAHENDRALAL SIRCAR has done well by reprinting at this time in his *Journal of Medicine* the report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1845 to enquire into and report on the sanitary condition of the irrigated or unirrigated districts on both banks of the Jumna. The Committee consisted of Major, now General Sir William Baker, Surgeon Dempster, and Lieutenant, now Lieutenant General, Sir Henry Yule. The Committee visited the Nujufghur jheels, and followed the then proposed course of the Ganges Canal for 83 miles, viz., from Hurdwar to the latitude of Meerut. In the course of this inquiry, they travelled about 1,400 miles, visited more than 300 inhabited localities, and personally examined upwards of 12,000 individuals of all ages. Amongst the instructions furnished for the guidance of the Committee were certain questions, set by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces. We give the questions and answers in juxta-position:

First. How far is the unhealthiness which has prevailed of late years at Kurnaul Delhi, Hansi, Hissar, and Rohtuck and in the villages irrigated from the canal, attributable to the existence of the canal, and to irrigation from it?

Reply I. We have obtained satisfactory proof that an extensive epidemic influence, in whatever it may have consisted, or however produced, undoubtedly pervaded a large portion of the North-Western Provinces of late years, and especially during and after the rainy season of 1843. To this we would partly attribute the sickness which occured in the canal irrigated districts, where, however, it is also certain, that the disease was generally, though not universally, more prevalent and severe than in other situations.

Second. Did similar unhealthiness prevail at the same time in other parts of the country not irrigated from the canal and beyond the reach of its influence? If so, to what cause is that unhealthiness attributable? Was the type of disease in the two cases the same?

Reply II.—Nearly all places within the North Western Provinces also suffered from fever at the same time, and in a degree greater than usual. We have, moreover, every reason to believe, that in certain situations neither irrigated from the canal nor within reach of its influence (as at Kythul, in the vicinity of the Nujufghar jheels, and in the khadir of the Jumna &c., fevers prevailed to an extent and with an intensity, as great as in the worst of canal villages. The season of the year at which the disease appeared, its symptoms, progress, and consequences, would mark it to have been everywhere of the same type, viz., the endemic (remittent and intermittent) of the rainy season, but everywhere, and especially in naturally malarious localities, greatly aggravated by the constitution or peculiarity of the season

Third. If you consider the canals to have been the cause of unhealthiness along their course, have you any grounds for thinking such to be the unavoidable result of canal irrigation or is it attributable to other causes, such as intercepted drainage, flooding from canal peculiarity of the soil irrigated, &c.?

Reply III.—By far the greater part of the evils we have observed have not been the necessary and unavoidable results of canal irrigation. In all situations where mischief was prominently marked, the natural drainage of the country had been checked or interfered with, stiff and retentive soils saturated with water, and natural disadvantages of site enhanced by excess of moisture.

Fourth. Can you suggest any means whereby the agricultural benefit of canal irrigation may be continued to the country at large while military cantonments or large towns may be saved from the risk of unhealthiness?

Reply IV.—The effects of canal irrigation appear to be remarkably local almost strictly so; three miles would probably be a safe distance; but if irrigation were prohibited within a circle of five miles radius round a large military station, its salubrity would not in our opinion be affected.

Fifth. Can you suggest any change in the lodging or mode of life of the agricultural population within reach of canal irrigation which would render them less liable than at present to any unhealthy influence occasioned by the canals?

Reply V.—We feel doubtful whether any suggestion proceeding from authority, as to mode of life, exposure, food, clothing and construction of houses, would be adopted and voluntarily practised by the agricultural population. The best and most efficient prophylactics of this class, naturally come with competence and ease, but much might be done to improve the salubrity of village sites, viz., to stop irrigation within 200 yards round all canal villages, and to plant a double row of trees round the unirrigated space; to deepen all good village tanks and to keep them full of water all the year round; to drain all shallow pools in or about villages, or to convert them into proper reservoirs of water; and, wherever it may be possible, to improve the drainage of village sites. It would be no hardship on a new canal to make such works an invariable condition of obtaining water for irrigation. Cleanliness is of much, though not of such vital importance as the measures above recommended; but we fear no rules on this subject could be generally enforced.

Sixth. Looking to the circumstances of the Eastern Jumna or Saharunpoor Canal do you find that the effect of the canal irrigation on the health of the inhabitants has been the same there as on the West Jumna or Delhi Canal? If not, how do you account for this difference in effect?

Reply. VI.—The Eastern Jumna Canal furnishes examples of some of the best and worst results of canal irrigation. In the north and south divisions, where the soil is light, the drainage perfect, and irrigation carried on chiefly by "Rajbuhas," we perceive all the blessings and scarcely any of the evils of a canal. But in the centre division, where the drainage of the country has been greatly obstructed, and the soil is generally more stiff and clayey, the effect on the health of the inhabitants has been the same in kind, and nearly in degree, as in the objectionable portions of the Delhi canals.

Seventh. Do you suppose that the contemplated Ganges Canal will or will not exercise an injurious effect on the health of the people of the Doab, over the whole of which it is intended to extend its influence? If you are of opinion that it will, can you propose any remedy or palliatives which will not involve the entire abandonment of the undertaking?

Reply. VII.—In the course of our inquiries on the existing canals, we have found salubrity to depend in a great measure on the nature of the soil and the efficiency of the surface drainage. In the districts which it is proposed to irrigate, the obvious geographical features of the country enable us to pronounce with some confidence, that an efficient drainage, if not everywhere existing, is at least generally attainable. On the proposed line of the canal from Roorkee to Meerut, we observed the soil to be light and friable; but without an extended examination, we cannot pronounce what proportion of the remaining districts of the Doab is characterized by similar soil.

In endeavouring to account for the observed difference of salubrity between well and canal irrigation, we beg to point out some material differences in the circumstances under which they are severally practised. Well irrigation is chiefly resorted to during the healthy season of the year; the water obtained with labour is used with economy, and the natural moisture of the soil is not increased by the water being transferred from a lower stratum to the surface. Canal irrigation, on the other hand, is practised throughout the year, being applied even during the rainy season to the cultivation of rice. The water being more easily obtained, is more likely to be used in excess, and such portion of it as may be absorbed by the soil increases by so much its natural humidity. It may be added that foreign alluvial matter is more likely to be held in suspension in canal water than in that obtained from wells.

The pecuniary advantages of canal irrigation, both to Government and to the former, are, we believe, fully recognized, and are so well understood by the cultivators themselves that they would willingly take their chance of the contingent evils of irrigation, in order to secure its benefits. Of this we saw abundant proof in the course of our investigation. It would, however, have been an important test of the national value of canal irrigation could we have accurately ascertained its effects on the density of the population and whether the augmented capacity of the soil for supporting life compensated for the increased activity of influences inimical to its duration.

Similar enquiries were made into the effect of the Godavery canals on the health of the people in their neighbourhood. About four years ago the Government of Madras recorded a Resolution on the subject, from which we give the following extract:

"The Governor in Council cannot but feel convinced that the deplorable prevalence of fever in the district is mainly due to the cause so forcibly sketched by Mr Foster and Mr. Stuart—the utterly inadequate means of drainage in a tract of the country whose swampy nature has been aggravated by the great system of irrigation-works; and he resolves to direct that this important subject be forthwith and most earnestly considered in the Public Works Department, and systematic arrangements be made, with the least possible delay, for remedying this most crying evil whereby at present the gift of financial prosperity which has been bestowed on the district, is coupled with the curse of disease. The Governor in Council cannot but feel that heavy responsibility rests on Government in this matter; and, as a practical step towards remedying the evil, he directs that a sum of one lakh of rupees be annually assigned in the Agricultural Public Works budget for works of drainage in the Godavery delta, supplemental to the great arterial schemes that are already under execution, and that such additional aid shall be afforded to the District Engineer as may be needed in the way of subordinates competent to take levels for carrying out the works."

In Midnapore the same kind of fever is attributed to excessive moisture in the soil from the canals. We hope the Government will pause and consider before it extends the irrigation system.

THE FAMINE IN MADRAS.

THE Famine in Madras is far more threatening than it is in Bombay or Mysore. The Resolution of the Government of India published in the *Gazette of India* for the 5th instant gives a most painful and disheartening picture of the position of Madras. The area of the Madras Presidency, exclusive of Native States and of the city of Madras, is 138,291 square miles, and the total population 30,833,625. This tract is divided into twenty districts, of which Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavery on the extreme north, South Arcot and Tanjore towards the east centre, and South Canara, Malabar and Nilgiris on the west, have escaped any approach to actual famine, though the distress in parts of some of them, owing to high prices induced by partial failure of crops or extensive exportation, has not been inconsiderable. The remaining twelve districts have been subjected throughout to varied, but still severe pressure, which in parts of many of them has reached the extremities of famine. The total area and population of the twelve districts, and the area and population actually affected by famine, on the basis of considering as affected all taluks in which the crop saved amounts to less than one-half, are as follows:

	Total.	Affected.
Area in square miles ...	81,852	63,910
Population ..	18,592,534	13,713,307

The extent of the famine in Madras is contrasted in the subjoined table with that in the *Presidency of Bombay and the Province of* Mysore:

		Affected.	
	Total.	Including half crops.	Excluding half crops.
BOMBAY.			
Area in square miles ...	54,355	41,251	33,873
Population ...	7,953,927	6,180,209	4,981,616
MYSORE.			
Area in square miles ...	27,077	16,160	14,479
Population ..	5,055,412	3,14[illegible],747	2,849,329
MADRAS.			
Area in square miles ...	81,892	71,849	63,910
Population ...	18,592,534	15,432,393	13,713,307

Contrasting the failure of crops in Madras with that in Bombay and Mysore, the following results are obtained: The failure has been total, or nearly so, in 21 taluks of Bombay, 18 of Mysore, and 35 of Madras, or 22½, 26½, and 29 per cent. respectively: the taluks which have lost from one-sixth to one-half, both inclusive, are 48, 25, and 68, or 51½, 36½, and 56 per cent. in the three cases; while, finally, those which have lost less than one-half are 24, 25, and 18, or 26, 37, and 15 per cent. The Madras losses, even on the figures now obtainable, which are regarded by the Government of India as probably unduly favourable, are consequently heavier in every instance than those experienced by either Bombay or Mysore. The estimates of probable remission of the land revenue submitted by the local officers amount to Rs. 1,24,33,758, or about one crore and a quarter of rupees. The mortality among the cattle has been very great. According to the local reports, the condition of the cattle appears to be good in forty-six taluks, indifferent in thirty-eight, and bad in thirty-seven. In some districts the mortality has already been extremely heavy. In Bellary th

Madras Board of Revenue consider it unlikely that more than 25 per cent. of non-agricultural cattle, and from 60 to 70 per cent. of the agricultural cattle, will survive: Cuddapah and Kurnool have likewise suffered severely, while the heavy losses which have befallen the well-known breed in Nellore will be felt, for years to come, far beyond the limits of the district itself. The rise in the prices appears to have been continuous, though in some cases more sudden than in others, until the close of the year; and staple grains were at that period generally dearer than in the Bombay Presidency. The Government of India admits that the condition of the mass of the people in the distressed districts, with the exception, perhaps, of Tinnevelly, is poor. The proportion of agriculturists generally exceeds considerably that of other classes, and there can be no doubt, says the Government of India, that the population as a whole, after exhausting what little accumulated means individuals may possess, are dependent, on an emergency like the present, upon such aid as the State can afford. So much for the ryotwary settlement.

At such time as this it is much to be regretted that there should be any misunderstanding between the local Government and the Government of India. The Madras Government so far as we can judge has done its best to grapple with the crisis, and yet we read the following remarks in the Resolution under notice:

> His Excellency the Governor General in Council regrets to observe that the reports of the local officers on the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency have not, with some notable exceptions been characterised by the same punctuality, accuracy, or completeness. Their various deficiencies in important particulars have been sufficiently commented on by the Madras Board of Revenue, and have been to a great extent supplemented by the series of elaborate and able reviews of the several districts by the Board itself which have accompanied them. His Excellency in Council is willing to make the most ample allowance for the irksomeness and difficulty which must have been felt in submitting detailed statistics by officers who were labouring under the practical difficulties of organising relief for clamorous and starving multitudes, but is constrained to observe that had they more generally grasped the imperative need of temperate and thorough diagnosis of the condition of affairs around them at a very early stage of famine, the exaggerated impressions which were in many instances received, and the excessive and uncalled for relief which was consequently given, might have been alike avoided, and the general policy of Government might have been in important particulars, different from what it was. While thus commenting on a general tendency which has had a not unimportant influence upon the conduct of affairs, His Excellency the Governor General in Council cannot withhold a tribute of admiration to the energy, ability, and self-devotion which the local officers of the Madras Presidency, of all grades, have uniformly displayed to the humanity by which their measures, even if at times in excess of the occasion have been prompted, and the loyalty with which they have accepted and endeavoured to carry out the famine policy of the Government of India, as set forth in the instructions of the 16th of January last, and personally explained by Sir Richard Temple in the course of his mission."

If the Madras officers have thus deserved commendation, why embitter the cup by the caustic remarks which we have quoted above. This is not the time for parley. What will the people of England think of the Government of India that, at a time when the local officers are working themselves to death as it were in the discharge of their public duties, they are using words towards them, which are calculated to break their hearts. To say the least this is not seemly.

£. S. D. *vrs.* HUMAN LIFE.

A VERY interesting but somewhat curious judicial decision is reported in the first volume of the Indian Law Reports. The plaintiff sued, under Act XIII of 1855, to recover Rs. 9,360, damages for the loss of her husband, Babu Ganpat Rai, deceased. The plaint stated that the plaintiff's husband was in the service of the East India Railway Company at Allahabad, and entrusted with the duty of despatching goods. On the 29th November, 1872, the defendant, through his servant William Henry Pollard, sent to the Allahabad railway station a box containing combustible and dangerous substances for despatch to Gwalior, without notifying the contents, as he was bound to do by law, and the box was placed as usual in the railway station near the very place where the plaintiff's husband was performing his duty. Suddenly the box, owing to its having been filled with explosive materials, exploded, and thereby the plaintiff's husband was wounded in so serious a manner, that he died from the effects of the injury he had received. On this account the plaintiff, a childless Hindu woman, claimed the amount of damages stated above. In assessing the damages she had sustained the plaintiff only calculated the amount which her husband would have earned from his 31st year, when this accident befel him, to his 70th year which she assumed to be the natural term of human life, without taking into consideration either the loss of her comfort, happiness and security or her husband's legitimate prospects of promotion in the service in which he was employed at the time of his death. The defence in the case was (1) that the box in question did not contain any combustible or dangerous substance as alleged by the plaintiff, and that the occurrence of the explosion was still a mystery to all chemists; (2) that there was no reason to suppose that the plaintiff's husband lost his life through the omission to declare the contents of the box, for even if it had been marked "dangerous," there would be evidence to show that the railway authorities would have placed the box precisely where it was located before despatch, and the deceased would have presumably dealt with it in no different manner than he did when the explosion unaccountably took place; (3) that the amount of damages laid was grossly excessive.

The Subordinate Judge, who tried this case in the first instance and who came to the conclusion that the box contained some dangerous chemical preparation, that its character was fully known to the defendant and his servant, that the omission of the defendant to mark the box "dangerous" amounted to a wrongful neglect or default which entitled the plaintiff to maintain the suit, and that the death of the plaintiff was caused by such wrongful neglect or default, gave a decree for Rs. 5,253. In determining this amount the Subordinate Judge assumed the plaintiff's husband to have been from 30 to 35 years of age at the time of his death, and capable of living up to the 70th year, as he was a "strong, healthy and robust" man; and he accordingly decided upon an allowance of Rs. 200 a year, or Rs. 17 per month, which required an investment of Rs. 5,253.

On appeal to the High Court by the defendant the learned Chief Justice observed as follows: "Mr. Lyell, the defendant, is no doubt, under the circumstances, entitled to much consideration, and even to a certain sympathy, and, if the nature of the case had admitted of it, I would have been glad to have determined his liability to be merely nominal." He held however that the box ought to have been marked "dangerous," and the omission to do so was an actionable fault for which the defendant was liable to pay damages, which he assessed at Rs. 3,000. In reducing the amount of damages, the learned Chief Justice remarked as follows:

> "It appears to me, however, that the Subordinate Judge has conceived an undue estimate of native life. The proportion of natives who attain the age of 70 is, I believe, very small; and the atmosphere, work, and attendance at an office connected with a railway station, such as that in Allahabad, is, in my opinion, not favourable to longevity, and all things considered, it appears to me that the offer suggested by Mr. Howard (on the assumption of his client's liability) is a fair one. The suggested offer was a monthly allowance of Rs. 15, secured by the investment of Rs. 3,000. Whether the investment of such a sum would produce a monthly allowance of Rs. 15, or whether it is necessary that the plaintiff should have such a monthly allowance I do not determine, but I consider that I sufficiently meet the legal conditions of the suit and the just claims of the plaintiff by awarding to her as damages the sum of Rs. 3,000. To that extent, therefore, I would modify the decree of the Subordinate Judge, and *quoad ultra* dismiss the appeal, with costs in both Courts."

Mr. Justice Pearson having differed from the Chief Justice, the defendant appealed to a Full Bench, which confirmed the judgment of the Chief Justice. With all respect for the eminent Judges who have decided this case we beg to submit that the decision they have arrived at is not very satisfactory; and we are sorry we cannot sympathize with the Chief Justice's expression of sympathy with the defendant Mr. Lyell. The report says:

> "It appeared at the trial that on the 19th of November, 1872, the defendant, who carried on the business of a chemist in Allahabad, received from a customer at Gwalior an order for certain chemicals, and among others for a detonating powder. He delivered this order to an assistant, Mr. Pollard, a qualified chemist, directing him to execute it, and to despatch the articles. The defendant had previously supplied his customers with detonating powder composed of equal parts of black sulphuret of antimony and chlorate of potash. These ingredients were not compounded in the shop but sent to customers in separate bottles. On this occasion, however, Mr. Pollard, without having received any express orders, prepared a detonating powder composed of one part sulphur and three parts of chlorate of potash, and these ingredients he compounded and placed in one bottle. Having delivered the articles ordered to the packer, Mr. Pollard went to the defendant and consulted him about it. The defendant inquired of Mr. Pollard how he had prepared the detonating powder, and Mr. Pollard informed him. The defendant observed that he supposed the ingredients had been placed in separate bottles. Mr. Pollard replied that they had been placed in one bottle. The defendant inquired if that was quite safe. Mr. Pollard said that he had frequently made it in England and kept it so. He added that the bottles were being packed and he would mark the box "*dangerous*," as a precautionary measure, to be taken care of by the Railway Company. The bottle containing in all 1 lb. of detonating powder was wrapped in paper and tow, and placed with seven other bottles (similarly prepared) in a box which was sent by a coolie to the railway station to be despatched by passenger train. The forwarding note which was sent with the box contained no description of the character of the contents. The box was not marked dangerous, nor was any notice given, nor did anything exist which could suggest to the servants of the Company that the box contained any explosive substance or required care in manipulation."

It is perfectly clear from this that the defendant knew that the article he was sending was of a dangerous character; and if it is alleged that he did not know this, his responsibility for what befel would certainly be all the more serious for his undertaking a trade in commodities of the properties of which he was completely ignorant. It is also clear that the defendant knew or at least had good reason to believe that sulphur and chlorate of potash, if mixed up together and kept in the same bottle, might explode from mutual friction alone—a fact, which completely upsets the plea urged on Mr. Lyell's side that, that gentleman could not be held liable for an accident which it was beyond his power to anticipate or foresee, or even to regard as remotely possible. His enquiry as to whether or no such a mixture would be quite safe, clearly indicates that an explosion of the kind which took place in this case could not be a "mystery" to *him*, though it might be such "to all experts in chemistry." And the practice he had followed on all previous occasions—of despatching sulphur and chlorate of potash in separate bottles—greatly strengthens the view we have taken of his knowledge and information on this point. The learned Chief Justice thinks that the fact of the defendant having manipulated the dangerous materials which caused the explosion, filled and packed the bottles, and carefully prepared the box for transit by railway, shows that "Mr. Lyell and Mr. Pollard exposed themselves to the greatest possible risk—a risk that might have cost them their lives," proves 'good faith' on the part of Mr. Lyell and "absolves him from liability in any grossly culpable sense." All this, we respectfully submit, is entirely irrelevant to the question which was raised between the two parties. No question of *bona fides* was involved in the case—no question of culpability of a criminal type was raised or even suggested by the plaintiff. And consequently any care or precaution which Mr. Lyell may have taken in preparing and despatching the detonating powder must be placed to the credit of his own sense of self interest and not to the credit of any tender or humane regard for the safety of the poor despatching clerk at the Allahabad Station. Consequently the Chief Justice's expression of sympathy with Mr. Lyell is wholly unintelligible to us and the only remark we can base upon it is that, it involves a finding to the effect that Mr. Lyell knew that sulphur and chlorate of potash are very dangerous when mixed and kept together. For without some such knowledge Mr. Lyell could take no credit for his manipulation of 'the dangerous materials' and 'careful preparation of the box for transit by railway.' It is thus perfectly clear that Mr. Lyell knew that he was despatching a dangerous article. And if he did know this, why was not the box marked 'dangerous'? It will perhaps be said that Mr. Pollard had told Mr. Lyell that he would put this mark on the box before sending it to the railway station. But does this absolve Mr. Lyell? As the responsible master of the business was it not his duty to see with his own eyes that the all-important *mark* had been put on the box? But Mr. Lyell did not do this, though the doing of it could not have caused him any trouble worth the name. And it is this negligence to do a most important but least troublesome act of duty which fixes a grave

li bility upon Mr. Lyell and makes it so difficult fo us to accord to him any portion of that sym- p hy which the learned Chief Justice has been l leased to express in his behalf.

And then as to the question of damages. There can be no doubt that the plaintiff Gunga Dai has suffered a serious and irreparable loss by the death of her husband. She seems to have no children and being a Hindow widow she cannot marry again. So she must find her own livelihood and is it at all likely that she will find it in the 3,000 Rs. which the Court has awarded to her? We fear not. She must have incurred heavy expenses in conducting her case in two Courts, and she must pay the defendant's costs in both the Courts on the portion of her claim which has been disallowed and which is so large as Rs. 6360. It would thus seem that after paying all costs and ways and means she will find herself in the possession of a merely *nominal* decree. But it might be said that the Court could not help this. But is that really so? If Mr. Lyell really committed a grave act of negligence which led to the death of the poor woman's husband, what was there to prevent her from receiving substantial help from the judges of the land? The law lays down no hard and fast rule for the assessment of damages in cases of this kind. There is nothing particularly injurious to human life in the atmosphere of a goods office in a railway station, as the Chief Justice says there is, and as there undoubtedly is in a locomotive office. The plaintiff's husband—naturally 'a strong, healthy and robust man'—might therefore have attained a high limit of age. And the High Court, as a Court of law, equity and good conscience, might well have adopted the scriptural limit of age assumed by the poor widow. Above all, it was a human life that had been cut short by Mr. Lyell's negligence, and those who had to administer relief could have incurred no blame if they had indicated by their decision that poor Gunga Dai had lost a man and not simply some pounds, shillings and pence. In a recent case of this description in Bombay the damages allowed to a Christian widow was, if we remembered right, Rs. 30,000.

BENGAL EPIDEMIC FEVER.

WE have reproduced elsewhere from the April number of the *Indian Medical Gazette* a very complementary and thoughtful review of Rajah Degumber Mitter's pamphlet on the Epidemic Fever in Bengal. The reviewer, whilst fully subscribing to the theory which the writer of the pamphlet has been endeavouring to impress upon the Government and the public ever since 1864 *viz.*, that this epidemic of fever is due to an obstruction of the surface drainage, which a Bengal village normally enjoys, differs from him as to the manner in which the said obstruction to drainage has been mainly caused. The reviewer thus states his views upon this point: "It is now the generally received opinion, and we believe the correct one, that the epidemic fever in Lower Bengal arose, and does arise, from obstructed drainage; but the question is whether this obstruction is due chiefly to natural or to artificial causes. The latter is Rajah Degamber Mitter's theory, while the former is held by other observers. Both cause may be at work in certain places; but we have too much evidence on record, to set aside the theory that the obstructed drainage is mainly due to changes which have taken place in the main and feeding streams of the country. In other places, and apart from Rajah Degamber Mitter's pamphlet, instances of obstructed drainage and a great prevalence of malarious fever have come to our notice. The many instances given in the pamphlet of obstructions to drainage being followed by the outbreak of the epidemic, are no doubt those which are ascribable to artificial causes, but that circumstance would hardly warrant the assertion that it is Rajah Degumber Mitter's *theory* that such obstructions are chiefly due to artificial causes. His theory as to the causation of the fever is thus laid down in page 5 of the pamphlet "The drainage of all the villages in the epidemic districts, as elsewhere in Lower Bengal, is effected by the water first running into the nearest paddy fields lying in the direction of their slope; thence it collects in the *beels*, from which it rushes through *khals* into larger streams; which again communicate with navigable rivers. An obstruction occurring in any one of these conduits must interfere with the drainage, and its effects are felt more or less according to the proximity or remoteness of the obstruction from the scene of its influence." It is quite evident from the above that in the opinion of Rajah Degumber Mitter, obstruction to the drainage of a village would be offered as effectually by the silting up of a navigable river as by the intervention of any artificial cause of obstruction at any of the other conduits. If, however, no instances of the former are given in the pamphlet, it is only because the writer as we suspect was not cognisant of any.

The statement of the reviewer that "we have too much evidence on record, to set aside the theory that the obstructed drainage is, mainly due to changes which have taken place in the main and feeding streams of the country" is we are afraid, more plausible than real and for reasons, set forth on pages 9 to 10 of the pamphlet and to which we would respectfully draw the attention of the learned reviewer. We, however, quote one para containing the writer's general conclusions on the subject: "Such instances might be easily multiplied, proving beyond the possibility of a doubt that the silting up of rivers had least to do with the impeded drainage of the epidemic villages. In fact the fallacy of the theory that the epidemic fever in Hooghly and Burdwan is wholly and exclusively due to the silting up of the rivers would, we feel confident, have been quite transparent to its advocates, if, before hazarding it, they had the patience to consider that a general obstruction of that kind to the drainage of a tract of country must have been followed, as its inevitable consequence, by a general, outbreak of the disease in all the villages lying within it, and not, as is the fact and as is admitted in all official reports on the subject, by a most capricious and whimsical selection of some of them. Further, most of the drainage outfalls in the Hooghly and Burdwan districts silt up, or dry up, after the close of the rains, and are opened out again at their commencement in the succeeding year; so practically there is no impediment offered through their agency to the drainage of the country."

In proof of the correctness of what is stated in the para quoted, we would adduce the case of Kana Nuddee or Kana Dalkissore. This river which is the drainage channel of a large tract of country in the district of Hooghly, completely silts up at its confluence with the Roopnaraun immediately after the close of the rains, but opens out again during the rains, and is navigable by boats of large burden, so that as a channel of drainage the river is sill quite intact. The same is equally true of many minor streams and khals except when they are artificially dammed up for a definite object. This distinction, it has hitherto been a subject of regret to us, has not been carefully borne in mind by the many writers who have written on the subject of the epidemic,—not even by those whose professional knowledge would have at once grasped it. Granted that defective drainage is the cause of the disease. the question is where does the defect lie when it is most injurious,—near the affected village, or away from it? And the peculiarity of the Raja's theory is that it brings the defect near the village, and so long as that is not grasped, no remedial measures can be devised which will prove satisfactory. It would be a very plausible argument to say that in a long line of circuitous drainage, obstruction in even a very remote point will affect the whole of the area above that point, but it would be only plausible and no more, for the beels and hollows which interrupt the line are, for all practical purposes, so many terminii to the drainage, and so long the drainage of a village can find its way to the nearest beel the village is drained sufficiently to save it from the epidemic, though the drainage as regards its passage to the largest river whereby it is carried to the sea may be interrupted.

THE MEHTERS' STRIKE.

THE leading dailies of Calcutta have given their opinion on the mehters' strike. The *Englishman*, as is his wont, is grave and sententious; the *Statesman* is smart, and the *Daily News* finical. They all bemoan the annoyances to which Mr. Metcalfe has been put by the Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation having called upon him for an explanation. It is always annoying to be so-called upon, and we can well sympathize with him for his trouble. But we cannot help thinking that the real object of sympathy are not those who have brought on the strike, but the native inhabitants of Calcutta who have been deprived of their house conservancy for the last seven weeks. For them, however, the Anglo-Indian Press has not a word to say. We can well conceive the thunders which would have been hurled from Hare Street on the heads of the Municipal officers had there been a stone awry near the entrance to the *Englishman* office; but with three lacs of people groaning under the effluvia of accumulated filth of well nigh two months, owing entirely to the muddle of the Chairman and the Health-Officer, our contemporaries have not a syllable to say. Such a muddle in the United States would have brought on the culprits a vivid sensation of tar and feathers. In Europe the offenders would have soon found themselves forcibly placed under a pump or in a horse pond; but in India, notwithstanding the assurance of the *Leader* "that there is not an English journal in India that would not afford them a fair field for the statement of just complaints and the enunciation and discussion of all questions of real importance, whether Imperial or provincial," not one of the three lacs of sufferers in Calcutta has found an advocate in the Anglo Indian press. The *Leader* itself thinks fit to discharge its duties by heaping abuse on those who are suffering; he has not the shadow of a shade of sympathy for the 3000 and odd complainants who sought to relieve their houses of an intolerable nuisance rendered doubly so in this grilling weather by the acts of the Municipal officers. It is not unoften that the leaders of the press parade their feeling for the good of the people; but it is invariably done to support their own special object and end; when the people do really suffer they can look up to them for aid with as much confidence as to the passing wind. One would have supposed that in organizing a large and comprehensive scheme of house conservancy, involving the interests of many parties and an enormous outlay of money, the executive would have pondered well on the subject and completed all their arrangements before giving it out. But they did nothing of the kind. They had no conception of what they were going to do. They adopted no means to ensure success. They failed altogether to grasp the gravity of the question, and recklessly rushed into an undertaking which could not but result in the deplorable failure for which they now seek the sympathy of the public. We yield to none in our estimation of the advantages which a good system of house conservancy would render to the public; we are fully conscious of the manifold defects of the present system; and we believe that the new scheme, as far as we can understand it, for it has not yet been adequately developed, if properly worked, would prove beneficial; but we cannot help observing that those who bring on serious evil by inconsiderate and thoughtless action, who only meddle and muddle, are not the men who have the first claim to consideration. We write in sorrow and not in anger, but we must say that those who have subjected the people to such protracted annoyance, as also those who revile the people for groaning under their annoyance and would gladly keep them subject to the evil for an indefinite period, solely to prevent the feeling of one or two of their countrymen from being offended, are not what they profess to be. The good of the community can be best advanced by united action on the part of the Europeans and the natives, but how can the natives believe those organs of the press to be their friend and co-operate with them who evince not the slightest consideration for their suffering;

TATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE glad to learn that the memorial portrait and bust of the late Doctor Stoliczka are in a fair way to completion. The portrait has arrived in this country and was exhibited at the March meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The bust is rapidly being finished.

THE HEAT during the first four or five days of the last week has been unusually severe. It is probable that we shall hear of many accidents to man and beast from heat apoplexy. Hackney carriage drivers and coolies, we are informed, have been obliged to refuse work between 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. One or two smart showers have become an absolute necessity.

WE COMMEND the following order of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the N. W. Provinces to the notice of all heads of departments in other provinces:

"It has frequently been noticed by the Government in petitions from persons who have been degraded or deprived of their situations in the public service, that the petitioners have not had an opportunity of explaining their conduct, and of making their defence before being reduced or dismissed from their appointments. The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Commissioner accordingly directs that in all cases of punishments and especially in all cases of dismissal, the persons concerned shall always be given a hearing before the final order is passed, and a formal proceeding, embodying the statements taken and the reasons of dismissal, shall invariably be recorded.

THE LONG-PROMISED Lepcha Grammar of Colonel Mainwaring is at last out. It was in 1864 that the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 7,000 on the recommendation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, for the publication of this work and a companion dictionary, and the Colonel was relieved of all military duties to prepare them. Ever since, he has been on the roaster of doing general duty, and dwelling in the pleasant climate of Darjeeling in the prosecution of his literary researches. The work published is a quarto of about 200 pages, in peculiarly large type, containing matter which in long-primer would fill about three numbers of the *Patriot*; and since this has taken twelve years in preparation, we know not when the Dictionary will be out, which will be considerably larger. There are men who doubt the existence of Lepcha literature, but the gallant Colonel has proved that they are mistaken.

IN TAKING a commercial view of the Eastern question a balance has been struck of the probable gain or loss which we should probably sustain by our going to war with Russia. This balance does not show that there will be any appreciable loss to commerce by our falling out with Russia. During the period 1872 to 75, we exported to Russia 1,173,234lb worth of cottons, linens, and woollens. The average during the same period of our trade in these articles in Turkey was 5,704,355lb. In making a comparison of the amounts of the goods consumed by the two nations in proportion to their population, we find that the value of textile fabrics consumed per head in Turkey is 3*s*. 3*d*. while the amount consumed by Russia average at 3½ penny. But taking the total value of all ariticles exported to Russia and Turkey respectively we find that we export to Russia goods to the value of 8,110,734lb and to Turkey 7,85,000lb. But even after taking the higher values of the exports to the two countries and in making a comparison of the amounts of goods consumed by the two nations in proportion to their population we find the comparison to be still in favor of Turkey, the rate per head to Russia being 2*s*. 0¼*d* and to Turkey 4*s*. 0½*d*.

OUR READERS will, we are sure, be interested with the following facts from the Resolution of Government on the report of the operations of the Paper Currency Department during the past official year:

The average amount of notes issued was Rs. 11,35,26,661. Allahabad and Lahore notes were cashed in Calcutta to the amount of Rs. 2,74,58,850, being Rs. 6,17,815 in excess of last year. The transactions with the public in Home Circle notes were rather smaller in 1875-76 than in 1874-75, thus:

	1874-75.	1875-76.
Notes issued....	68,25,78,760	62,69,70,815
Notes discharged.	63,66,57,570	62,17,81,655

The decrease of issues appears to have been almost entirely in notes for Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10,000. All the smaller denominations except the Rs. 100 notes show increases.

The average daily number of notes cashed in Calcutta has increased from 8086 in 1872-73 to 11,659 in 1875-76, the average daily number cancelled from 3,773 to 8,303. Notes for Rs. 10,000 are much more used in Bombay (issue 4,601 notes) than in Calcutta (issue 935 notes). Rupees 1,11,970 were paid, under bonds of indemnity, for lost notes during the year. The net profits of the Department amounted to Rs. 20,32,190.

THE PIONEER states that the Russian explorer Mr. Prejevalski, is on his way to Lhassa, and enquires whether the British are in time as regards the expedition to be undertaken by the Government. No one will doubt the expediency and prudence of the measure sanctioned by Government. The political relations with Thibet require to be put on a satisfactory footing. It is apprehended, however, that, in spite of the intelligent exertions of Mr. Edgar, it will be found a matter of great difficulty to penetrate into Thibet. The *Pioneer* goes on to say that "a party of Europeans, who were endeavouring to enter Thibet, have been turned back by the officials of that country. The latter, when shown a passport from the Emperor of China, are said to have observed that the Thibetans, while willing enough to obey the Emperor's mandates in other respects, would not, even at his bidding, suffer Europeans to penetrate into the country. Our information does not state from what side the attempt of the travellers was made; but as no English explorers are at present engaged in that quarter, it seems possible that the story may relate to Colonel Prejevalski." Of course the English expedition will not be swayed by these rumours, but will endeavour its best to gain the object with which it will be despatched. It remains for the Government to select a proper officer, who will possess in himself all the qualities necessary for such a delicate diplomatic mission.

THE FOLLOWING rules to regulate the sittings of benches of Magistrates under the Presidency Magistrates Act have been published. The rules were drawn up by the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Dickens, and have been approved by the Bengal Government:

DRAFT RULES FOR BENCHES.

1. The Bench shall try such cases as may be referred to it by either of the Stipendiary Magistrates, subject to the provisions of Rule 8. Provided further that no case triable by the High Court only shall be so referred.

2. Benches shall ordinarily sit for the first hearing of cases on the dates and at the times mentioned below. A special Bench may, however, be convened on any other day by either of the Stipendiary Magistrates:—

(Here insert dates and time of sitting)

3. A Bench shall ordinarily be composed of not less than three Magistrates when they are all Honorary Magistrates, or of two, when one of them is a Stipendiary Magistrate and the other an Honorary Magistrate. The Honorary Magistrates will sit in the rotation arranged by the Commissioner of Police, but any Magistrate not named may sit, unless the Chief Magistrate otherwise direct.

The Stipendiary Magistrates shall be *ex-officio* members of Benches.

4. The Chief Magistrate shall, if present, officiate as Chairman. In his absence the Junior Magistrate shall, if sitting, officiate as Chairman. In the absence of both the Stipendiary Magistrates the Bench may elect own Chairman.

5. The Chairman shall conduct the proceedings of the court and exercise all the functions in that behalf usually exercised by a Presidency Magistrate when sitting alone. He shall decide upon the admissibility of evidence, and maintain order in the court; but it shall be open to any member of the Bench to put any question to the witness, either direct or through the Chairman as the latter may deem advisable, and to suggest any matter for the Chairman's consideration.

6. Each member of the Bench shall have a voice in the finding and sentence. In a Bench of three or other uneven number, the opinion of the majority shall prevail. When the numbers are even, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

7. The Chairman shall generally record the evidence and judgment in cases in which a record of evidence and a judgment are necessary; but such duty may, with his consent, be performed by any one of his colleagues.

8. The Bench may hold one of more adjourned sittings, if this be found necessary for the disposal of business or of part-heard cases; but it shall be open to the Bench at the close of its regular sittings either to unheard cases back to the Magistrate under whose order of reference they received them, or to postpone them to some other day as may seem most convenient. Any part-heard case postponed to a further sitting of the Bench may be proceeded, with if any member of the Bench has been present at the previous hearing in the case, but subject to the provisions of section 156 of the Presidency Magistrates' Act.

Any part-heard case may, however, be sent back to the Magistrate under whose order of reference it was received, should it appear unsuited for trial by a Bench. In such cases the Magistrate shall recommence the trial.

The above rules do not at all meet the necessities of the case, and we are of opinion that the object of the Presidency Magistrates' Act will be frustrated by their adoption. Apart from the objections pointed out by a sensible correspondent of the *Englishman*, signing himself "A Presidency Magistrate," regarding the doubtful position of Honorary Magistrates on the Bench, the rules are calculated to act unjustly and injuriously upon the people. The Presidency Magistrate's Act has deprived Her Majesty's subjects of the privilege of trial by jury in certain cases which used hitherto to be so tried, and has in its stead provided that those cases should be heard and adjudicated by a Bench of magistrates. It will thus be seen that the legislature has endeavoured in some measure to remedy the evil by providing for the trial of cases, which formerly went before a jury, by a Bench of magistrates, instead of by a single magistrate.

The rules published, however, make it optional with the stipendiary magistrates to refer a case formerly triable by a jury to a bench or not as they might think proper. In our opinion it should be imperative to have such cases invariably tried by a bench under the presidency of a stipendiary magistrate. The summary cases could be made over to an Honorary magistrate, or, should there be no necessity for two benches every day, might be taken up by one of the stipendiaries. We do not think the Honorary Magistrates will decline taking a fair share of the work.

The Presidency Magistrates' Act has inflicted a permanent injury on the people, but whatever redeeming features it had, have been completely effaced by the rules which have been published. We trust Mr. Eden will perceive this, and will take steps to prevent the act becoming, as has already been predicted of it, an engine of oppression.

REVIEW.

Mahaprasthar—A Romance in Bengali. By Poresh Nath Mullick.

The author of the book at the head of this notice is evidently an ardent young man whose head is full of philosophy and wildness. We confess there is much merit in the composition, as there is a clear indication of more than school-boy reading not unmixed with thoughtfulness. But he has made a muddle of the truths of natural history, Zoology and Hindoo mythology. That he is wanting in experience as a writer of romance will be evident from the first glance at any page taken at random. The story is not sustained and no where does it create any interest in the reader. We read and proceed on—longing for the *denoument*, but feel sadly disappointed. All this proceeds from an idiosyncracy which has marred the beauty of more promising productions, and that is, a taste for the morbid, which has charmed, and will continue to charm many an unwary reader to his own detriment. We would say no more. We repeat what we have said before that the writer is thoughtful and studious but rather peculiar in his ideas. He attempted to strike into an original path but missed his mark and lacked perseverance to pursue steadily a fixed aim. We hope he will think it worth his while to make another attempt.

SELECTIONS.

LORD SALISBURY AN LEGISLATION IN INDIA.

I hear on good authority that the agitation has already begun, and that Mr. Henry James, the last Liberal Solicitor-General, will shortly bring forward a motion in the House which will revive once more the vexed difficulty so curtly disposed of by the Secretary of State. For the comfort of the judges it may be mentioned that Lord Salisbury has been hitherto peculiarly unfortunate in his efforts to curtail the jurisdiction of the judges in this country. His former attempt resulted in an utter failure; and there are irreverent scoffers who have the hardihood to remark that the irritating influence of a recent crushing defeat has much to do with the tone of, if not the nature of, the conclusions arrived at by the Secretary of State in the last two despatches which have proceeded from his exalted pen. In March 1875 Lord Salisbury introduced a Bill into the House of Lords intituled an Indian Legislation Bill. By the ninth section of this Bill it was sought to put it out of the power of the judges to declare any law made by the Governor-General in Council, and not disallowed by Her Majesty, invalid for any cause whatever. The section went on to provide that, should the Chief Justice and two other judges of any High Court (one of such judges being a barrister-at-law) be of opinion that any law affecting a case brought before such High Court on appeal was inconsistent with the provisions of any of the Acts of Parliament relating to India, it would be lawful for the Chief Justice and judges to report such inconsistency to the Government of India. It would be left however, quite optional with the Secretary of State to decide against the opinion of the judges if he thought fit to do so. This Bill passed through the House of Lords unscathed, if we except some rather stringent objections put forward by Lord Halifax. In the House of Commons, however, it did not fulfil the early promise of its auspicious birth. The first breath of opposition stifled its existence; it was ruthlessly trampled down and forgotten except by its sorrowing parent. But though discouraged, Lord Salisbury had not lost heart altogether, as became evident from the fact that we find in February 1876 Lord George Hamilton and the Attorney-General bringing in a Bill—into the House of Commons this time—to amend the Law relating to Legislation in India with a view to the consolidation thereof. This Bill, practically the counterpart of its ill-fated predecessor, slipped through a second reading and was referred to a committee. There, however, it attracted the attention of some of the leading lawyers of the House, and its fate was decided by the adverse view taken of its provisions by Sir William Harcourt, who intimated his intention of moving that the Bill be read that day six months when again presented for the third reading. This threat was sufficient to induce Lord George Hamilton himself, on the 8th of May, to solicit permission to withdraw the Bill and to discharge the committee from considering its sections. The pertinacity displayed by the Secretary of State in this double attempt to curtail the present jurisdiction of the High Court, makes it no difficult task to trace the probable bent of his own mind when called upon to deal (authoritatively with kindred questions of difficulty, and the judges may with propriety consider it an unfortunate circumstance that Lord Salisbury was not compelled to submit his own views to the criticism of the House of Commons before he could constitutionally pour out his soul in the two despatches which have lately seen light in the *Gazette of India*. The rebuff received by the Secretary of State from the House of Commons ought, however, to inspire the judges with the liveliest hope for the future. The present daring assertions of Lord Salisbury trench much more seriously on the judicial prerogatives of the High Court than any of the pretensions advanced in the sections of the two abortive bills introduced into Parliament. The ill-success which attended these attempts might well have made the Secretary hesitate before committing himself to the expression of opinions which were combated by certainly one prominent member of his Council, and which must of necessity run the gauntlet of a debate in the House of Commons.—*Pioneer*.

A REVIEW OF

Epidemic Fever in Bengal. RAJAH DEGAMBER MITTER, C. S. I., *Hindoo Patriot* Press Calcutta.

In 1872, a pamphlet bearing the above title, and containing a reprint of certain articles which had previously appeared in the *Hindoo Patriot*, was issued anonymously from the *Patriot* Press office. The pamphlet now before us is a second edition of the same, revised enlarged, and brought down to the date of the past year. We are glad to see that Rajah Degamber Mitter, C. S. I., has declared himself the author, and for the first time his name appears as such on the title-page. In our issue of the first of June 1872, we reviewed the first edition, and as nothing particular has since been added to the information already given up to that time, we shall direct our attention only to the articles which have appeared since January 1873.

The whole object of the writer is to defend the position assumed by him in his minute on the subject, which was published as an appendix to the report of the Epidemic Commission of 1864, to the effect that this epidemic of fever is due to an obstruction of the surface drainage of villages caused mainly by the construction of roads, railways, and embankments, without a sufficient waterway for the ready discharge of rain and flood. In the first edition valuable instances were given where such obstructions were followed by outbreaks of fever and where the removal of obstructions was likewise followed by an improvement in the health of the villages whose drainage has been closed.

In our editorial columns of 1st June 1876, we reviewed Dr. R. L. Dutt's report on the fever in Midnapore in 1874-75, in which he also gave many instances of obstructed drainage in the fever tracts of that district.

It is now the generally received opinion, and we believe the correct one, that the epidemic fever in Lower Bengal arose, and does arise, from obstructed drainage, but the question is whether this obstruction is due chiefly to natural or to artificial causes? The latter is Rajah Degamber Mitter's theory, while the former is held by other observers. Both causes may be at work in certain places; but we have too much evidence on record, to set aside the theory that the obstructed drainage is mainly due to changes which have taken place in the main and feeding streams of the country. In other places, and apart from Rajah Degamber Mitter's pamphlet, instances of obstructed drainage and a great prevalence of malarious fever have come to our notice. We may mention Bireepore in the 24-Pergunnahs, and Kidihati in the Dum-Dum sub-division. In the latter the railway and Barasat roads are blamed, in the former the main road by Ramnagar. The question can be easily settled by a competent engineer in the rainy season, and its decision is important, because if the village obstruction theory from artificial causes be the true one, much can be done to remedy the defects and rectify the errors. In this case bridges, culverts, and sufficient waterway are all that is required; on the other hand, if the theory of obstructed drainage from natural changes or causes prove correct, an extremely difficult, if not impossible, engineering problem will have to be considered.

The part of the pamphlet where our present notice commences, opens with the dispute between the author and Dr. G. C. Roy as to whether the Grahari Khal, which drains Jehannabad and other villages in Burdwan district, was or was not *bunded* up by the zemindar in 1866-67. Rajah Degamber Mitter maintains that it was, and that "this lock-up was in the following year the case of epidemic fever in all the villages which this khal drained." Although Dr. Roy reported that "he found that no obstruction had existed for five years previous to the outbreak of the epidemic, and that at the time it did make its appearance, the obstruction *was no longer in existence*," yet the Rajah re-affirms, "without any fear of contradiction, that the khal was dammed up in 1866-67, that the fever broke out in a mitigated form the year after, and in a virulent form from the second year of its closure, and to the best of" his "information it is still in existence." The cases of the Kokoo Nuddee *bunding* in 1866-67, and of the late attack of the elevated village of Chandoor, are next discussed and our author certainly brings forward strong arguments in favour of his theory. "In the case of Obidpore the drainage channel was closed by the zemindar owning that village, by May 1872. The epidemic made its appearance in October following, that is to say, immediately after the close of the rains, and by February of 1873, *viz.*, within the short period of five months, more than 30 per cent. of the population had been carried off." He asks that "the drainage of Rishra and Mahesh in the sub-division of Serampore be examined, and the questions decided whether the water has not been entirely shut out from its natural channels by the intervention of a *kutcha* road running along the western boundary of both those villages, constructed within the last five years, and followed by an outbreak of epidemic fever simultaneously in both the places almost in the succeeding year."

The latter part of the pamphlet notices the reports by Drs. Wilkie and Jackson, and brings forward evidence from other localities, such as the Godavari district in Madras, and from the writings of other observers in the fever-striken tracts and elsewhere.

The articles are well written and contain a good deal of instruction and information, and great credit is due to Rajah Degamber Mitter for the zeal he has shown, and the labour he has bestowed on the question for the last thirteen years. The pamphlet will considerably shorten the labours of the newly appointed Fever Commission, and assist the members in their investigations. To the subject of the progress of the fever in 1875-76 we shall again return, and here we may say a few words concerning the Commission.

We are not sure of the exact question which the Commission is expected to solve. Is it to ascertain the truth of Rajah Degamber's theory, or is it to investigate the cause *de novo* of the fever? On this subject we have not been informed; but in our opinion the questions are:—(1) In any fever-stricken village or tract is there obstructed drainage? If so, to what is this obstructed drainage due? (2) In those villages which have escaped fever, is there evidence of obstructed drainage, or is the drainage free? If obstructed, to what is the obstruction due?

Of course, the Commission will take up those instances so ably put forward by Rajah Degamber Mitter, and endeavour to verify or refute his assertions regarding them. As we take the whole tenor of the articles, the Rajah courts investigation.

The work being an important one, and the question of the nature of the fever having been, we believe, satisfactorily decided, we must object to the Commission as lately appointed. The question is chiefly an engineering one and requires a staff of Engineers with lay assistants. The members appointed to assist the Engineers ought to be active strong men, with considerable local knowledge of the country. The Sanitary Commissioner is too hard worked an officer to carry on the investigation properly. The same may be said of the Engineer who has been appointed. The native members, so far as we know, are unfit for active duty, or have had no local knowledge of the fever tracts. We should have appointed a senior officer of the Engineers as President, and detailed as members—another Engineer who knows the country, an independent Surgeon of the Bengal Medical Service, an active and intelligent Assistant Surgeon who was formerly Inspecting Medical Officer in the fever tracts, and a well-known Deputy Magistrate who wrote a valuable report on the Food Statistics in the epidemic fever country.

During the investigation each member should be relieved of all other duty.—*Indian Medical Gazette*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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ERRATUM.

For Parbuttychurn Mookerjea, read "Mitter" Moteehary Rs. 16-8

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*May* 23, 1877.

GENERAL.—The three months privilege leave of absence of Mr. E. H. Whinfield Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan is cancelled.

Mr. L. R. Tottenham, District and Sessions Judge, Midnapore, obtained furlough for eight months with a subsidiary leave for 10 days.

Moulvi Dulleeloodeen, Dy. Magistrate and Dy. Collector, Patna, leave for six months in addition to his previous leave.

Babu Dwarkanath Roy, Dy. Magistrate and Dy. Collector Bogra is transferred to Julpigoree.

Mr. H. A. D. Phillips, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Kendraparah, Cuttack, allowed leave for 12 days.

Baboo Ruttonlal Ghose, Dy. Magistrate and Dy. Collector, Bagdogra, allowed leave for three months.

Mr. S. S. Jones, Acting Assistant Commissioner Hazareebag vested with the powers to try breaches of rules and regulations (sec) in the Cantonment of that District.

Mr. John Nugent C. S. allowed leaved for six months with subsidiary leave for thirty days. Baboo Petamber Bannerjee, appointed as Sub-Deputy Collector second grade and isposted to Backergunge.

Mr. G. S. Park, appointing Magistrate and Collector of Sarun is confirmed in that appointment.

Captain E. W. Samuels C. S. Assistant Superintendent of Revenue Survey, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector of Furreedpore, Backergunge and Nuddea.

Mr. H. P. Wylly, Deputy Revenue Superintendent, Orissa, vested with the powers of a Collector.

Baboo Juggomohun Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, posted to Cuttack.

Mr. A. A. Wace, Officiating Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bhaugulpore, acted as Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Mr. J. C. Veasey, C. S. reported his departure from India.

Baboo Narendronath Chowdry B. L. Officiating Deputy, Magistrate and Deputy Collector Patna, posted to Sarun.

Mr. H. W. Mackenzie, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, appointed to settle the boundary disputes of the Chota Nagpur and Burkagurh estates.

Mr. J. S. Drummond C. S. allowed extension of leave for six months.

Baboo Poreshnath Sukul, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nuddea, vested with the powers of a Collector.

Mr. S. S. Jones B. A. Officiating Assistant Commissioner Manbhoom transferred to Hazareebagh.

Mr. H. B. Lawford, Acting District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs, appointed to perform the functions of a Judge in Calcutta for land acquisition.

POLICE.—Mr. E. F. Tonnere acted as an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Mr. W. P. Davis District Superintendent of Police, Hazareebagh reported his epature from India.

Baboo Nobokristo Ghose, Offg. Assistant Superintendent of Police, 24-Pergunnahs having returned to his duty, the unexpired portion of his leave is cancelled.

The Sub-Divisional officer of Dukhin Shabazpore is also appointed to be Sub-Registrar of Dowlutkhan.

Baboo Dwarkanath Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, appointed to be a member of the District School Committee of Beerbhoom, *vice* Baboo Gour Das Bysack, transferred.

Mr. C. L. Harrison, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, allowed leave for three months.

Mr. C. E. S. Innes, Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Tehta, appointed to act as Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Gya.

The orders appointing Mr. G. Nicholson to officiate as an Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, will have effect from 9th March last.

Mr. C. A. C. Gennoe, Assistant Sub-Deputy Agent, having arrived at the Benares Agency, the unexpired portion of his leave is cancelled.

Mr. W. G. Green, Officiating Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, posted to the Chittagong Forest Division.

MUNICIPAL.—Baboo Gopal Chunder Mookerjea, Officiating Dy. Magistrate and Dy. Collector, appointed to be Controlling and Registering

Officer within the Municipality of Hooghly and Chinsurah.

The Lieutenant Governor approves the election of Mr. H. G. Cooke, Offg. Jt. Magistrate and Dy. Collector, as Vice-Chairman of the Municipality of Revelgunge.

The following gentlemen are appointed as Commissioners for the Municipality of Barripore.

Baboo Thakoordas Roychowdry zemindar, *vice*, Baboo Basanta coomar Roychowdry Baboo Tarrucknath Sircar, Head master Barripore E school *vice* Baboo Mohesh Chunder Ghose.

Baboo Indranarain Banerjee, Native Doctor *vice* Baboo Churn Bose.

The Lieutenant Governor approves the election of Baboo Raj Kisben Banerjee as Vice-Chairman for the Municipality of Bhuddessur.

The Lieutenant Governor approves the election of Mr. R. Cornish, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector as Vice-Chairman for the Municipality of Moozufferpore.

The following gentlemen to be Municipal Commissioners for the Mozufferpore Municipality :—

Moonshee Mahomed Bakar. | Moonshee Sitaram.
Sheik Bahadur Hossein.

Baboo Harungi Missir to be a Commissioner for the Municipality of Bettiah, Chumparun.

JUDICIAL.—Baboo Bhagwan Chunder Sen Subordinate Judge of Backergunge, placed in charge of the current duties of the office of District and Sessions Judge, Backerguge.

Baboo Sarodaprosad Chatterjee, Moonsif of Rampore Haut to be Moonsif of Maureshwar, Beerbhoom.

Baboo Nilmony Nag, Additional Moonsif of Rungpore to be Moonsif of Doobrajpore, Beerbhoom.

Baboo Joygopal Bose Moonsif of Doobrajpore, to be Moonsif of Rampore Haut, Moorshedabad.

Baboo Kristo Chunder Choudry Moonsif of Deang, Chittagogn transferred to Rungoneah. He is posted to Puttiah temporarily till relieved.

Baboo Juggut Bundhoo Dutt M. A. and B. L. Moonsif of Rungoneah, transferred to Deang.

Moonshee Fyzoollah is to Officiate as Moonsif of Rungoneah till relieved.

The following Officers are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class to try offences under section 18 Act v.

Major J. M. Heywood R. C. Executive Engineer, Arrah.
Captain A.D. Macarthur R. C. Executive Engineer Buxar,

Mr. C. E. Livesay, Executive Engineer Nasseergunge
Baboo H. L. Mitter, Assistant Engineer Joynuggur.

Mr. R. Buckley Executive Engineer, Dinapore.
Lieutenant R. H. Brown, Assistant Engineer, Daoodunggar

Mr. F. R. S. Collier Assistant Magistrate and Collector Korigaon Division, vested with the powers to try the offences summarily.

Moonshee Moinoodin Sub-Deputy Collector Mudhoobunne vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class.

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Koylash Chunder Roymohasoy,
Zemindar and Hony. Magistrate;
Dehoorda Zillah, Baleshwar.

Last Bysakh my wife was laid up with various complicated diseases, so much so that there was no means of saving her life. In this state your Amritarasa was administered to her, and she is perfectly cured now.

Issur Chunder Roy Chowdhry,
Bahalgram, Raigunge.

Your Amritarasa being administered to my wife, her diseases seems to be in a great measure checked. The bodily weakness is much less than before. The pain in the stomach is not entirely cured yet, but I hope, from the state she is now in, that by continuing the medicine longer, she might possibly get completely cured, for the disease is not of a short standing.

Shusi Bhusun Haldar,
Deputy Magistrate of Mathabhanga;
Zillah Kuch Behar.

The curative virtue of your Amritarasa is widely known, and I am very happy to see some patients wonderfully cured by it. I do not know what amount of virtue you are acquiring by saving thousands from untimely death.

Chowdhry Protap Narain Roy,
Zemindar of Bansidiha.

By using your Amritarasa continually my disease has been checked in a great measure. My health is progressing, and I have gained much liveliness. Hoping to be perfectly cured by the use of a few bottles more.

Chowdhry Narain Chunder Roy Bahadoor,
Chooramun in Malda.

Babu Motilal Lahery of the Sub-Division Dhubri and some others have been cured by the use of your famous Amritarasa.

Roy Protap Chunder Barua Bahadoor,
Zemindar of Gouripoor, Dhubri.

I once tried your excellent medicine (Amritarasa) in chronic Headache, and the infallible result duly communicated to you. Now I have much pleasure to inform you again that I have tested its efficacy in some cases of Chronic Fever and Spleen with wonderful effect.

I have also cured 8 Cholera cases by your valuable pills—it is the only best reliable remedy yet found.

Rajendra Nath Datta,
Secy. of Rama N. P. Club.

I have much pleasure to inform you that I have been able to cure 50 cases out of 51, who were suffering under complicated diseases. In conclusion I assure you that your Amritarasa is a very efficacious medicine, and the further circulation of it is indispenibly requisite.

Purno Chunder Banerjea,
Member of Chinsurah Club.

One phial of your Amritarasa has done a good deal of good to my younger brother, who was suffering from a long time under Dysentery, Chronic Fever and Spleen. The 1st and 2nd diseases have altogether disappeared, and the Spleen is much better, and hope, will be cured in another bottle.

Dukhina Perda Roy Chowdhry,
Mohesrakha.

A phial of your Amritarasa was bought by me, and given to a woman who was suffering too much from Chronic Fever and other complicated diseases; and I am very glad to inform you that she is wonderfully cured by the use of the same.

Bonomally Paul,
Goonotea *via* Sainthia.

Last year by using your valuable Amritarasa. I am perfectly cured of Chronic Colic pain (sool), from which I suffered.

Joygobind Dutt,
Jatanpookhu *via* Jalpaiguri.

Your Amritarasa is very efficacious. My friend was suffering from fever for 7 years, from Spleen for 5 years and from Dysentery for 1 year, and was exceedingly weak. He used one phial of your Amritarasa, and is much better now. The fever is cured, ¼th of the Spleen is reduced, and in place of about 12 bloody stools daily he has 2 or 3 motions now without blood.

Jogendra Chunder Bosu,
Ghutiabazar, Hugli.

Since a year I had been suffering from fever and cough. Having tried in vain various native and European medicines, I was at last completely cured by using your widely known Amritarasa.

Romanath Banerjea,
Huripur, Zillah Dinagepoor.

My poor letter can describe very little the virtue of your valuable medicine known throughout this part of the world. Often do I hear that many persons in these localities are saved from the attack of many dreadful and fatal diseases by means of your kindness. We have seen that Babu Radha Mohun Mookerjea is cured of a long standing Dyspepsia of an aggravated form, and his wife of a chronic asthma in a short time. Amritarasa (*i. e.* a drink which prevents death) is really achieving what its name imports.

Shama Churn Mittra,
Deputy Post-master, Bansdiha.

My brother has derived great benefit by using your Amritarasa. His colic (sool) pain and rumbling of the stomach are cured.

Prosunno Coomar Dass,
Ratnapur, Moorshidabad.

Your Amritarasa was use in a case of Fistula, the sore is cured, there being now only a spot in the place.

Gobind Chunder Sett,
Fansidewa, Darjeeling.

My venerable father was suffering under fever, cough, and * * * from a long time. He used 3 bottles of your valuable Amritarasa, (though he was unable to use it regularly), and his fever and cough are perfectly cured, * * *

Burnesnw rjMaookerjea,
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Loke Nath Bosu,
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HEM CHUNDER BANERJEA,
Missirpokhar, Benares.

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I have the honor to inform you that your medicine for cholera was received here when the disease had nearly disappeared from the town. It was however administered in 2 cases with successful result.

Sd. W. R. LARMINE.
Magistrate of Bankura.

I am very glad to say that your Cholera pills have cured all the 10 cases in which they were administered.

(Sd.) D. V. SAPRAY,
Bankipur.

I am requested by the Maharaja of Burdwan to inform you that during the recent outbreak of Cholera in this place, your pills were tried in several cases which occurred among the servants of His Highness and were found to be efficacious. In all these cases the medicine was administered in the early stage of the disease but in one case in which it was administered to a patient who was in an advanced stage it was powerless and the man died.

(Sd.) T. B. MILLER,
Private Secretary.

Your Cholera pills are really infallible. Not being a professional man I was afraid to try your medicine at first, but I administered it in 3 cases given up by the Doctors as hopeless. Two of the patients recovered quickly within 6 hours by using only two pills each. The other a child took one pill which stopped his purging, vomitting, perspiration and spasm and caused a discharge of urine, but unfortunately at this stage his parents gave him some other medicine. The result was the disease relapsed and the child died.

(Sd.) BIPIN BEHARI DUTT,
Station Master Doomraw.

The few Cholera pills that you kindly gave me when I went to Gya in the Cholera season, have wonderfully saved the lives of 13 persons from that fatal disease.

(Sd.) RAMCHUNDER PUNDIT,
Sanscrit College, Benares.

I have to inform you that I could not give a fair trial to your medicine during the late outbreak of cholera here. Strictly speaking I treated 2 cases exclusively with your pills and found them efficacious.

I tried the pills in 10 more cases when they had already had other medicines and their disease had sufficiently advanced. However I am glad to say that those that had the fortune to live for some hours after the administration of your medicine, had the action of their kidny established, though mostly died subsequently. Of these ten cases only 2 actually recovered.

From this short trial I cannot arrive at any conclusion though I do not feel myself disappointed.

(Sd.) KHURGESHUR BOSE,
Asst. Surgeon Akyab.

I have much pleasure to say that I have been able to cure 80 cholera cases out of 86 by the use of Babu Hem Chunder Banerjea's Cholera pills in 1875. All these cases were personally treated by me gratis among the Pilgrims. On the subject I have been examined by the Civil Surgeon of Benares who has retained the papers in which the result of my treat ment is recorded.

(Sd.) GOPINATH SOOKUL,
Benares.

Last month the Cholera Pills brought from you, were administered to 6 patients, and am very glad to say that all of them were perfectly cured. Cholera medicine, like this, has not yet been discovered. All the patients were cured within six hours.

Gopal Chunder Banerjea,
Native Doctor, Chupra.

Your Cholera medicine is the best one yet discovered. Many persons were cured by its use.

Parmeshwar Bedratna,
Umbica Rajbatty, Kulna.

The good effect of your Cholera Pills cannot be expressed in writing. It was tried in 18 cases among the coolies here. I am very glad to say that all of them have recovered without a single failure.

Moheeooddeen,
In charge, Tea Garden, Koorkurea.

The Cholera Pills sent by you were administered to 5 patients, and the result is that all of them have been cured.

Radha Bulove Sing Deb,
Zemindar, Bankura.

Many thanks for the Cholera Pills you kindly set me. I have tried it in several cases with successful result.

Zahurul Hossain,
Dewan of Talibpur Estate

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